

Screening Results

Most babies receive a PASS result, which means their hearing is fine at the time.

A small number of babies that pass the screening may still develop a hearing loss at a later age. For this reason, it is important to watch your baby's language development. The ages and stages guide inside this brochure will help you.

Babies who receive a REFER result will need a second screening. This does not necessarily mean they have a hearing loss. Because finding those babies with hearing loss is so important, all babies with a REFER result must have a second screening with a different machine.



When can my baby hear me?



By the 5th month of pregnancy, most babies can hear their own mother's voice and may react to loud sounds by making small movements. Soon afterwards, most babies can hear other people's voices as well.

At birth, babies respond more to their own mother's voice because it is the most familiar voice!

Please contact us with any questions you may have:

Audiology Department

Stanton Territorial Health Authority
PO Box 10, 550 Byrne Rd.
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N1
Phone: (867) 669-3130

Northwest Territories Infant Hearing Program



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Hearing Screening for your new baby

NWT Infant Hearing Program

Hearing is Important

Your baby begins developing speech and language at birth. Babies hear voices and noises that show them how to put sounds together into words. When these sounds and voices can't be heard, language learning is delayed.

It can be hard to notice if your baby has trouble hearing. The early years are the most important period for language development. It is important for all learning and social interaction.

Six in 1000 babies are born with some degree of hearing loss. By screening at birth and early intervention by 6 months, babies with hearing loss will develop better language skills. Without early screening, most of them won't be diagnosed until the ages of 2 or 3.

Screening is Quick, Simple and Safe

The nurse will screen your baby in the hospital, before you go home. It is safe and does not hurt your baby. Your baby will probably sleep through the test.

The nurse will put a small earphone in your baby's ear and play quiet sounds. The ear's response to these sounds are measured and recorded. The test takes only a few minutes and you get the results right away.

hearing screening + early intervention = better language skills

AGES AND STAGES

Below are milestones that mark the progress of young children as they learn to communicate. Next to these milestones are ways you can help your child.

If at any time you think your child is not meeting these milestones, don't hesitate to contact your local health centre or nearest Speech Language Pathology Department.

If you think your child might have hearing loss, contact the Audiology Department listed on the back of this brochure.

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Birth to 3 months :

- looks at you while getting fed
- quiets when hearing familiar voices and sounds
- makes cooing and gurgling sounds
- gets startled by loud noises

What can you do?

- talk to your baby
- make cooing and gurgling sounds back to your baby
- sing to your baby

3-6 months :

- turns eyes or head toward sound
- responds to you by making sounds and/or moving arms and legs
- smiles and laughs
- begins to make speech-like sounds - "buh," "ma," "boo"

What can you do?

- smile and laugh with your baby
- show interest in the sounds your baby is making and repeat them back
- provide a variety of sounds e.g., music, outside noises, animal sounds, toys, and show delight in the sounds you hear
- tell your baby what you are doing when you feed, bath, dress him/her

6-9 months :

- responds to hearing own name
- understands "no"
- looks at some common objects or family members when named
- babbles sounds in a series - "bababa," "dadada," "mamama"

What can you do?

- point to people, pictures and common objects and say their names
- look at books, point to the pictures and name them
- say sounds back and forth with your child as long as he/she is interested
- sing songs and nursery rhymes

9-12 months :

- understands simple requests - "give it to mommy", "don't touch"
- understands simple questions - "Where's that ball?"
- uses gestures or sounds to let you know what he/she wants or needs
- says first word
- begins to play "pat-a-cake" and "peek-a-boo"

What can you do?

- encourage your child to use gestures and respond to them, e.g., when child raises arms to be picked up say, "you want up?" and then pick the child up.
- talk about everything you are doing using simple words and short sentences
- listen carefully to the sounds your child makes. You may hear their first word, e.g., "ba" for "ball", "u" for "up", "mook" for "milk"
- play with your child and have fun

12-18 months :

- follows simple spoken directions such as "get the ball"
- points to people, body parts or toys when asked
- uses connected sounds that sound like sentences in a different language (jibberish)
- uses 10 or more words
- uses common expressions - "oh no," "all gone"

What can you do?

- look at books and tell stories about the pictures, choose books that your child can hold e.g., board, cloth, or bath books
- talk back to your child when he/she talks to you
- use real words, not baby talk e.g., say "Give me", instead of "ta ta" and "bottle" not "baba"
- pay attention to what your child is saying, not how they say it
- play games and use toys and objects that your child enjoys

18-24 months :

- uses 20 or more words
- combines two or more words, such as "more juice"
- uses many different speech sounds at beginning of words such as p, b, m, t, d, n
- takes turns "talking" back and forth with you
- listens to simple stories, rhymes and songs

What can you do?

- use different kinds of words when you talk with your child (in, big, happy, jumping)
- encourage your child to play with other children e.g., library story times, play groups
- name and copy different sounds your child hears e.g., dog barking, bird singing, fire engine siren
- use the adult way of saying words or phrases without correcting your child directly e.g., child says "Daddy car", You say "yes, Daddy's in the car. Let's go."