



## Communication Milestones

### ► BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS:

- settles to familiar sounds or voices
- is startled by or jumps when there is a sudden noise.

### ► 3 TO 6 MONTHS:

- turns head or eyes toward interesting sounds
- appears to listen
- wakes easily to sound
- starts to make speech-like sounds.

### ► 6 TO 12 MONTHS:

- understands simple words such as 'no' and 'bye-bye'
- begins to copy speech sounds
- turns head to soft sounds.

### ► 12 TO 18 MONTHS:

- appears to understand more words each week
- points to people, body parts or toys when asked
- follows simple spoken instructions e.g. 'sit down'.



## Top End NT Hearing Services

Darwin and Palmerston

Visiting service to Katherine and Nhulunbuy

 (08) 8922 7110

 nthearing.darwin@nt.gov.au

## Central Australia NT Hearing Services

Alice Springs

Visiting service to Tennant Creek

 (08) 8951 6776

 nthearingalicesprings.DOH@nt.gov.au



If you need an interpreter when reading this, please ask a staff member.



NT HEALTH

# Targeted Surveillance

## NT Newborn Hearing Screening Program

NT Health  
Consumer  
Approved



EDOC2024/0183187

For further information visit  
[health.nt.gov.au](http://health.nt.gov.au)



## Why was my baby referred to the Targeted Surveillance Program?

If your baby passed their newborn hearing screen but has a risk factor for hearing loss, a follow up hearing test will be made from 8 months of age.

Some risk factors need follow-up hearing tests for a short time, others need follow-up hearing tests for a number of years.

Children with a risk factor have a higher chance of hearing loss developing as they get older.

### Risk Factors (✓ tick as applicable)

- Severe asphyxia at birth (not breathing properly)
- Hyperbilirubinaemia (jaundice) levels exceeding transfusion level
- Confirmed/suspected congenital infection of the baby
- Family history of permanent childhood hearing loss (parents, siblings, >2 close blood relatives)
- Confirmed/suspected bacterial meningitis
- Professional/other major medical concerns



## How much will the hearing test cost?

NT Hearing Services is funded by the NT Government so there will be no cost to you.

## What will happen at the hearing test?

The Audiologist will play sounds of different pitches and volumes. When the child hears the sound, they are taught to turn their head and will see a moving puppet or cartoon on a screen.

**Finding a hearing loss at an early age gives your child the best chance to develop speech and language at the right time and to be able to learn well.**

At first the sound comes from speakers then the Audiologist will use earphones or headphones to check each ear.

The Audiologist will also look in your child's ear and use a special machine to check how their ear drums are moving.

It may take more than one appointment to get all the information needed. When booking the appointment, it is best to make it at a time when your child will be alert and not hungry or tired.

## What happens after the hearing test?

If a hearing loss is found, the Audiologist will talk to you about other specialists who can help find out the cause of the hearing loss and work with your child to help their hearing.

If no hearing loss is found, it is still important to monitor your child's hearing as it can change and the Audiologist will tell you when the next hearing test should be.

If you become worried about hearing or speech and language development, please call NT Hearing Services for your child's hearing to be tested again.