



Hearing and speech checklist

► 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'.



Appointment

An appointment has been made for your baby for a

- Hearing screen
- Audiology full hearing assessment

Where: _____

When: _____

📞 Contacts

Royal Darwin Hospital	(08) 8922 8888
Alice Springs Hospital	(08) 8951 7777
Katherine Hospital	(08) 8973 9211
Nhulunbuy Hospital	(08) 8987 0211

If after your baby completes the Newborn Hearing Screening you have any worries about your baby's hearing, contact your baby's doctor or staff at your local clinic for a referral for a hearing test referral.



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

NT HEALTH



Can your baby hear?

NT Newborn Hearing Screening Program



EDOC2024/0183185

For further information visit health.nt.gov.au



Part of baby's health checks

Your baby will be offered some health checks after they are born.

One of these will be a free screening for hearing loss.

The NT Newborn Hearing Screening program aims to identify babies born with a permanent hearing loss.

The newborn hearing screen should be done before you and your baby leave hospital.

Why screen my baby's hearing?

A small number of babies are born with a permanent hearing loss (the baby is unable to hear sounds normally). Hearing loss may not be obvious in the first few weeks of life, but can be found by doing a hearing screen. If a hearing loss is not picked up at an early stage, it could affect your child's language and speech development and future learning at school.

How is the hearing screen done?

A Newborn Hearing Screener or trained nurse will do the hearing screen when your baby is resting quietly or asleep. It only takes a few minutes and you can stay with your baby.

The hearing screen does not hurt your baby.

Three small gel pads will be placed gently on your baby's head and shoulders and a soft earphone will be lightly placed over each ear. Soft clicking sounds will then be played into your baby's ears. Your baby's responses to the sounds will be recorded by the gel pads and saved in the screening device.

When will I know the results?

We will talk to you about the results of the hearing screen straight away. Your baby's screening results will be noted in their Personal Health Record booklet.

Ask questions if there is anything you are not sure of.

What does a 'pass' result mean?

A 'pass' result on both ears means that it is unlikely your baby has a hearing loss that will affect his/her speech and language development.

It is possible for a baby to develop hearing loss later in life and if you become worried that your baby has trouble hearing at any age, talk to your doctor or health care nurse to get a hearing test referral.

What does a 'refer' result mean?

A 'refer' result on the first hearing screening means that a second screening will be done. A 'refer' result on the second screen means that a diagnostic test will be done.

Refer results on two screens does not mean that your baby has hearing loss, only a diagnostic test can detect this.

A 'refer' result can be caused by a number of things:

- Your baby was unsettled during the screen
- There may have been background noise during the screen
- Your baby may have fluid or a temporary blockage in the ears from their birth
- A small number of babies have a temporary or permanent hearing loss



If a hearing loss is not picked up at an early stage, it could affect your child's language and speech development and future learning at school.

One or two babies out of every 1,000 births will have significant hearing loss.

If you would like more information about Newborn Hearing Screening at any time, contact your local hospital, your child health team or your baby's doctor.

NT Hearing Services  **8922 7110**

