

Unilateral Hearing Loss Family Path



BABY BORN

First hearing screening

- Can be in either the hospital or community
- If results are not clear, baby is sent for second screening
- Babies who are known to be at risk for later childhood hearing loss have hearing checks at local public health hearing clinics

Second screening

- If hearing status can't be confirmed in one or both ears, baby is sent for further hearing assessment

Diagnostic hearing assessment

- More comprehensive tests are used to completely assess baby's hearing
- Audiologists work closely with BC Early Hearing Program coordinators if any permanent hearing loss is confirmed

BEFORE OR BY 3 MONTHS OF AGE

If hearing loss in one ear is confirmed – what happens now?

- BC Early Hearing Program contacts family and provides information about unilateral hearing loss, communication development, and services
- Ongoing medical follow-up and audiology appointments

BEYOND THE DIAGNOSIS

What to expect with Unilateral Hearing Loss

- ▲ Difficulty hearing in noise and when the sound is directed toward the ear with poorer hearing.
- ▲ Locating the direction where sounds are coming from may be more difficult.

What to do

- ✓ Get close when talking with your baby.
- ✓ Ask your Audiologist about how to protect your child's hearing.
- ✓ Ask your Audiologist if any hearing equipment may be beneficial.
- ✓ See your Doctor or Audiologist if you suspect any hearing change or ear infection. Ask your Doctor and Audiologist for more information.
- ✓ Make sure your baby's early communication is on track. If you have concerns or need more information, contact BC Early Hearing Program's Intervention Coordination 1-866-612-2347 or bcehp@phsa.ca

AT ANY TIME

At any point in time appropriate community based services may be considered:

- If you or another family member have concerns
- If recommended by Audiologist or BC Early Hearing Program coordinator

At any point in time additional provincial services may be considered:

Examples of these services may include:

- Referral to Sunny Hill Hearing Loss Team for more in depth developmental assessments
- Referral to Well-Being Program for family support from professional counselors (available to families throughout BC)

BC Early Hearing Program

A service of BC Children's Hospital and the Provincial Health Services Authority



For more information, contact the BCEHP Provincial office toll free at **1-866-612-2347** www.phsa.ca/earlyhearing