

As your baby grows, check their speech, language and listening:

By about two months, most babies...

- startle to loud sound
- quiet to familiar voices
- make vowel sounds like “ohh,” “ahh”

By about four months, most babies...

- look for sounds with eyes
- start babbling
- use a variety of pitches in squeals, whimpers and chuckles

By about six months, most babies...

- turn head toward sound
- try to imitate changes in voice pitch
- babble (ba-ba, ma-ma, ga-ga)

By about nine months, most babies...

- imitate speech sounds of others
- understand “no-no” or “bye-bye”
- will locate sound source at eye level or below

By about 12 months, most babies...

- say two or three words
- give a toy when asked for one
- respond to singing or music

For more information, contact your local public health audiology clinic, visit the BCEHP website at www.phsa.ca/earlyhearing or call 1-866-612-2347



Your Newborn Needs a Hearing Screening Appointment



BC Early Hearing Program

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

Congratulations on the arrival of your new baby!

Knowing whether or not your baby has good hearing is important. Good hearing is essential for your baby's speech and language development.

Your baby _____
needs to have a
hearing screening.

Screening is quick, simple and safe.

Soft sounds are played in your baby's ears. A computer measures the response from your baby. Hearing screening takes only a few minutes with a quiet baby.

What is the next step?

A hearing screening appointment needs to be arranged at your local health unit or hearing clinic.

Please contact the clinic for an appointment.



Getting ready for the hearing appointment.

It is easiest to check your baby's hearing while her or she is sleeping. Please try to have your baby hungry and tired when you arrive for your appointment so your baby will fall asleep easily once testing is started. You can feed your baby when you arrive at the appointment.

If your baby is awake at the time of the hearing screening, we will need your help to keep him or her quiet and settled. You may need to feed or soothe your baby.

There are no supervised play areas in the hearing clinic. If you must bring other children with you, please bring another adult to look after them.

Will I be told the results right away?

For most babies, you will be told the results right away. Sometimes the results need to be interpreted after the appointment. If so, you will be called with the results.

More testing may be needed if the results are incomplete or if your baby does not sleep. You will be told if another appointment is needed.

The best way to be sure about your baby's hearing is to attend all follow-up appointments.

What if I have questions?

Call the audiologist at your local hearing clinic. The phone number and location can be found in the phone book.



Privacy Information

The BC Early Hearing Program (BCEHP) is a provincial early hearing detection and intervention program. It is a service of BC Children's Hospital and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

How do I access the program?

Most families access the BCEHP soon after the birth of their baby at the time of hearing screening. If your baby is born in hospital, the screener obtains contact information, baby's date of birth, and personal health number from the hospital admission system. If your baby needs further testing after screening, the screener will review this and other information with you.

How is information about my baby shared?

To help us provide services to your family, the BCEHP may need to share information about your child with professionals who provide hearing, early communication and support services. These professionals may be in hospitals, hearing clinics, health units, child development centres and early intervention programs, for example.

Your child's personal information is collected under the authority of the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA") Section 26(c) and is used to deliver hearing assessment, early communication and support services. We also use the information to help us determine how well we meet families' needs, how we can improve our program and services, and how we can assure quality of care. Information may be used for research, with your consent or as the law permits.

For more information about the collecting and sharing of personal information by the BCEHP, visit our website www.phsa.ca/earlyhearing or contact the Program at #301-931 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8V 3K3; Phone 1-866-612-2347