

As your baby grows, check his or her 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's Hearing

Screening Results Enclosed



BC Early Hearing Program

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

Knowing your baby has good hearing is important.

Congratulations on the arrival of your new baby! Good hearing is essential for your baby's speech and language development. Newborn hearing tests are important for families, because much can be done if hearing loss is caught early in a baby's life.



Approximately one in 300 babies is born with hearing loss. This number increases for babies who require special care at birth.

Screening is quick, simple and safe.

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

Taking care of your baby's hearing.

A child is never too young to have a hearing check. Babies can have difficulties with their ears and hearing as they grow. Some children will have frequent ear infections or serious illnesses that can result in later hearing loss.

Act quickly if you suspect changes or delays in your child's hearing or speech. You know your child best.

Contact your closest hearing clinic and arrange a hearing test.

Is my baby at risk for later hearing loss?

At the time of screening, babies are also checked for factors which may put them at risk for later childhood hearing loss.

If your baby has one of the following risk factors, follow-up testing will be recommended:

- immediate family member with permanent childhood hearing loss
- cleft palate
- certain syndromes
- certain serious early health problems

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

There may be other programs where your baby's hearing is routinely checked, such as the neonatal follow-up clinic or cleft palate program. You may be called for appointments by one of these programs and by public health audiology for BCEHP. Please let them know if you are receiving services at another program. Usually you do not need to attend both appointments if they are close together.

What does a "Pass" mean?

Passing hearing screening means your baby is unlikely to have hearing loss. However, children can develop a hearing loss later in childhood, so it is important to have your child's hearing checked if you have any concerns.

Your baby's hearing has just been screened.

Date _____

Your baby _____

PASSED the hearing screening.

Follow-up testing is recommended
Y N at age _____.

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

