

What Families Need to Know

Early Communication is Key

ALL NEWBORN BABIES NEED TO GET A HEARING SCREENING BEFORE THEY LEAVE THE HOSPITAL

- It is important to figure out how much and what your baby is hearing so that you can find the best way to communicate with them. Typically, babies learn language by listening to those around them. Babies who are deaf or hard of hearing may need to learn different ways of communicating, such as sign language.
- About 100 babies in Louisiana are identified as deaf or hard of hearing each year. The only way to find out early is through newborn hearing screening.



HEARING SCREENING IS IMPORTANT FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



- **Language is how your baby learns.** Communication and language development begin at birth. Babies use sounds and movements to communicate before one year of age.
- **Find out early if your baby has hearing loss to help them learn, grow, and thrive.** Children who are deaf or hard of hearing need to get support services as early as possible (no later than 6 months of age) in order to develop communication and language similar to their peers.

SOME BABIES NEED FOLLOW-UP TESTING

The results of your baby's hearing screening are on the back of this page. Look to see if "Further Testing Needed" is checked and if there was a follow-up hearing testing appointment scheduled. If a follow-up appointment has not been scheduled, talk to your baby's doctor about scheduling one as soon as possible.

- **Some babies need more testing to find out if they have hearing loss.** An appointment should be made as soon as possible.
- **Some babies only need follow-up testing in one ear.** Even babies who have hearing loss in only one ear need support services to help keep their language development on track.



If your baby is diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing, the Parent Pupil Education Program (PPEP), Hands and Voices, EarlySteps, and other organizations will reach out to you to provide guidance and support.



HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT HEARING SCREENING?

Contact the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program at 504-599-1086 or email us at laehdi@la.gov. Visit us online at ldh.la.gov/ehdi.

For a toll-free line, call 1-855-331-7253 and ask to speak with someone in Early Hearing Detection and Intervention.



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