



Newborn Hearing Screening Information for Home Births

Hearing and communication are very important for your baby's development. Babies who are born at home are not required to have a newborn hearing screening. However, it is very important to consider having a hearing screening done on your baby.

Hearing loss is common in babies and newborns and is hard to find. Hearing loss is invisible and hearing loss signs can often be missed until the baby is older. Some signs of hearing loss may be speech and language delay, behavior problems, and/or developmental delays.

Why is newborn hearing screening important for my baby?

Performing a hearing screening shortly after a baby is born is a quick and simple way to find risk for hearing loss. A hearing screening should be done soon after the baby is born and can be done on a sleeping or quiet baby.

Where can I take my baby for a newborn hearing screening?

Your local health department will offer you a list of locations that can do the newborn hearing screening. This list is called the Pediatric Audiology Services Directory for Outpatient hearing screening.

How do I schedule an appointment for the newborn hearing screening?

Look at the Pediatric Audiology Services Directory to find a location by county for the Outpatient Screening section. Once you find the location(s), you can call the number listed to schedule an appointment for the newborn hearing screening. There is also a listing of insurances taken by each site.



What if my baby did not pass the hearing screening and needs more testing?

After your baby has the newborn hearing screening, the audiologist will share the results with you and give you some important information on your baby's growth. If your baby does not pass the hearing screening, more testing is needed called a diagnostic hearing evaluation.

The diagnostic hearing evaluation should happen as soon as possible. It is best to have babies diagnosed under 3 months of age. Babies who are younger than 6 months of age are able to sleep through the testing. Babies who are 6 months or older may need to be sedated to stay asleep with special medication for the testing.

Sometimes, the same screening location can do the diagnostic hearing evaluation. If the location cannot do the diagnostic hearing evaluation, the audiologist will give you a list of locations in the Pediatric Audiology Services Directory for Diagnostic testing sites or help make the appointment for the diagnostic hearing evaluation.

What if my baby has hearing loss?

If hearing loss is found, the audiologist may send your baby to an Ear, Nose and Throat doctor. Your baby will also be referred to the Early Intervention program that can help support your family to enhance your child's learning and development through everyday routines.

Who should I call if I have more questions?

The Ohio Department of Health- Infant Hearing Program can answer questions about the hearing screening, diagnostic hearing evaluation or other information.

Contact the Ohio Department of Health-Infant Hearing Program:

- Infant Hearing Screening Assistance: (614) 387-0135
- Infant Hearing Diagnostic Evaluation Assistance: (614) 728-4676
- E-mail: infanthearingprogram@odh.ohio.gov
- <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/cmh/Infant%20Hearing/About%20Infant%20Hearing.aspx>

