

## Your baby's hearing

The first year of life is very important for learning language and developing communication. The earlier a hearing loss is found, the better it is for your baby. Without additional testing, you won't know whether your baby has a hearing loss. Even babies with hearing loss startle to loud sounds.

Tips to prepare your baby for a hearing test:

- Try to schedule the test when your baby will most likely want to nap.
- Try not to let your baby nap before the appointment since it is best to test a sleeping baby.
- Bring an extra blanket, pacifier, extra diapers, change of clothes, and if used, extra formula.
- Be on time for the test session.
- If your baby is sick on the day of the test, it's best to reschedule.

Tips for caregivers:

- If there are other children at home, arrange for childcare so you can focus solely on your baby.
- Bring a snack, drink and a sweater for yourself. You may get hungry, thirsty or feel chilly.
- Ask family members if any relative, on either the mother's or father's side of the family, was diagnosed with childhood hearing loss.
- Be prepared to share information about your pregnancy and birth history. Were there any problems? Did you or your baby take or need medications, and what were those medications?

Audiologists use a variety of tests to check your baby's hearing. These include:

- **Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) test** – a tiny, flexible probe is placed in your baby's ear. Sounds are sent through the probe into the ear. A microphone in the probe picks up echoes made in the ear in response to those sounds. If hearing is normal, an echo is reflected and measured. If there is a hearing loss, an echo won't be present.
- **Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test** – Band-Aid like electrodes are placed on your baby's head. Different types of sounds are played in your baby's ears using small earphones. The electrodes pick up responses from the hearing (auditory) nerve and a computer measures the responses.
- **Tympanometry** – A small probe is placed in your baby's ear and the air pressure is gently changed. This test is helpful in showing if there is an ear infection or fluid in the middle ear.

Please contact our office with any questions or if you need to reschedule (Phone number).

Your appointment date and time is: