

Risk Factors

There are many risk factors for late onset hearing loss.

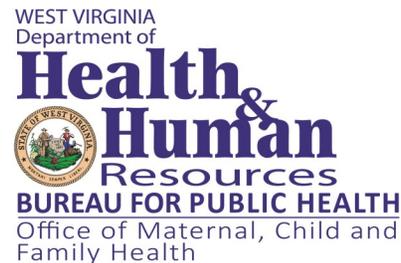
- ✓ Caregiver concern about hearing, speech or developmental delay
- ✓ Family history of permanent childhood hearing loss
- ✓ NICU care longer than five days
- ✓ In utero infections: Cytomegalovirus (CMV), herpes, rubella
- ✓ Craniofacial anomalies
- ✓ Neurodegenerative disorders
- ✓ Head trauma
- ✓ Chemotherapy
- ✓ Syndromes associated with progressive or delayed-onset hearing loss, such as neurofibromatosis, osteopetrosis, Townes-Brock, and Usher syndrome; other frequently identified syndromes, including Waardenburg, Alport, Pendred, Downs syndrome, Sticklers and Jervell and Lange-Nielson.



If you have any questions or concerns about your baby's hearing, call your primary care provider or the Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

**304-558-5388 or
Toll Free in WV 1-800-642-8522**

**For more information:
www.dhhr.wv.gov/nhs**



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Bureau for Public Health



Newborn Hearing Screening Program

- 1 Screening by *ONE* month**
- 3 Diagnosis by *THREE* months**
- 6 Early intervention by *SIX* months**

Why is newborn hearing screening important?

- Your baby's most important learning takes place between birth and three years old.
- Language (sign and/or spoken) helps your baby's brain grow. Access and exposure to language provide a foundation for later learning.
- Early identification of hearing loss provides the best opportunity to assist your child's language, learning, social, and emotional development.

What will happen during the screening?

- Trained hospital staff will test your baby's hearing.
- Tests are done while your baby is quiet or asleep and takes about 10 minutes.
- The tests are very safe and will not hurt your baby in any way.
- There are two types of equipment used. Your baby may have one or both of the following:

OAE - Otoacoustic Emissions:
Your baby will hear a series of clicks through a small ear plug and a computer measures the echoes that return to the ear.

ABR - Auditory Brainstem Response:
Your baby will hear a series of clicks through small headphones and the screener measures your baby's response to the sounds.

ABR



OAE

What's next?

If your baby does NOT pass...

...he or she is referred to an audiologist for a diagnostic hearing test. A diagnostic test gives us specific information about what your baby can hear.

If your baby does pass...

...It is still important to keep track of any changes in your baby's hearing over time. It is possible that your child has hearing loss that is missed by the first test, as some hearing losses are progressive, or develop later in life.

LANGUAGE MILESTONES

0-3 Months

- Startles at loud sounds
- Quiets or calms when you talk
- Makes cooing sounds like *oooh* and *ahh*
- Cries change for different needs
- Smiles at people

4-6 Months

- Moves eyes in the direction of sounds
- Responds to changes in your tone of voice
- Pays attention to music
- Makes babbling sounds like *baba*, *mama* or *gaga*
- Giggles and laughs

7 Months-1 Year

- Turns and looks in the direction of sounds
- Looks when you point
- Uses common words like *no* and *bye-bye*
- Responds to his/her name
- Understands words for common items and people—words like *cup*, *truck*, and *daddy*
- Babbles long strings of sounds, like *mimi upup bababbaba*
- Starts to respond to words and phrases, like "No," "Come Here," and "Want more?"
- Uses gestures like waving bye and shaking head no
- Says 1 or 2 words, like *hi*, *dog*, or *uh-oh*