

Your baby has been referred for more hearing testing...

A referral for hearing testing means one of two things:

1. Your baby has no hearing loss but may have had a temporary condition such as fluid in the ear canal during testing. Some referred babies may have middle ear fluid or an ear infection which can be medically treated.

2. Your baby has a hearing loss. If this is the case, you now have the advantage of taking early steps to manage your baby's hearing loss. The earlier you get a full hearing evaluation, the better for your baby.

An audiological evaluation (hearing test) will show you if your baby has a hearing loss.

If this is the case, there is much you can do: get hearing aids, learn how to communicate with and teach your baby, and bring your baby up as a normal child.

Any baby can develop a hearing loss later on, and some losses fluctuate or progress. See an audiologist whenever you have a concern.

Places to Start Learning

Web sites:

www.infanthearing.org agbell.org
babyhearing.org johntracyclinic.org
hearingexchange.com cuedspeech.org
listen-up.org deafchildren.org

To learn more about hearing screening, or
To talk to a parent who has been there, or
To get advice from an audiologist, call

Tennessee Newborn Hearing Screening Program:
(615) 741-8530 or (615) 262-6160

Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS): 1-800-852-7157

Tennessee Infant Parent Service (TIPS): (865) 579-3099

Children's Special Services (CSS):
(615) 741-8530



State of Tennessee
Department of Health
Newborn Hearing Screening
Cordell Hull Building, 5th Floor
425 Fifth Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37247-4750

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What Do You Do Next?



What's the Good News?

If your baby has a hearing loss, you have discovered it at the best possible time—with a lifetime ahead to manage it.

Why do you need to know so early? Because the first year of life is a very important time for language development. Language is a tool that helps us learn, communicate, make friends, and live a productive life.

Very few babies are totally deaf. Almost all babies have a bit of leftover hearing called “residual hearing.” Even those with little or no hearing can often hear with hearing aids or cochlear implants. You can teach your child how to hear and talk with these tools. Or you might choose cued speech or sign language.

Getting tools and training for your child is called “intervention.” There are many people who will help you. There is no reason your baby can't learn, grow, make friends, and live a happy life like other children. You simply have to provide the avenues for your child to cope with hearing loss. Your baby is depending on you. So get a hug and move forward! Caring people are ready to help.

Read about Newborn Hearing Screening at www.babyhearing.org

What Can I Do? Follow These Steps:

- 1. Get hearing tests right away.** Ask your doctor to refer you to an audiologist who works with children. Painless tests called ABR, OAE, and tympanometry determine if a loss is present and if so, how severe.
- 2. Build a team of helpers** including a speech teacher, an audiologist, your pediatrician, an ear doctor (ENT or otologist), and an early intervention specialist. Trust yourself and your hunches. **And**—find professionals whom you can trust.
- 3. Begin with hearing aids or other communication tools.** Get them from an audiologist who does computerized fitting of hearing aids and who allows you to try several kinds before buying. Write down your observations and make comparisons of how your child responds.
- 4. Don't generalize.** Not all children with hearing loss use sign language. Or speak. Or cue. Not all children with hearing loss are shy. Or bold. **Each child is an individual.**
- 5. Read, ask, and ask some more.** Keep asking questions until you get answers.

If a hearing loss is present, it may be temporary or permanent, stable or progressive.

- 6. Hearing loss makes your baby no different from any other child.** Learn how to teach your child to listen during daily routines. Love, guide, and discipline your child. Don't spoil or indulge your child just because of hearing loss. Teach your baby how to work around it.



With the right tools, children with hearing loss succeed in every area of life as well as children with normal hearing.