

## Some Things a Baby with Normal Hearing Should Be Able to Do:

### Birth to 3 Months of Age

- Blinks or jumps when there is a sudden, loud sound
- Quiets or smiles when spoken to
- Makes sounds like “ohh”, “ahh”

### 6 to 9 Months of Age

- Turns head toward loud sounds
- Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
- Babbles, for example “baba,” “mama,” “gaga”

### 9 to 12 Months of Age

- Repeats simple words and sounds you make
- Correctly uses “mama” or “dada”
- Responds to singing or music
- Points to favorite toys and objects when asked

*If you have questions about your baby's hearing or this list, talk with your baby's health professional.*

### Where Else Can I Get Information?

Visit [www.babyhearing.org](http://www.babyhearing.org)

## Kansas Department of Health and Environment

### SoundBeginnings

### Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

1000 SW Jackson Street Suite 220

Topeka, KS 66612

Phone: 800-332-6262



## Your Baby Needs Another Hearing Test

*Finding hearing loss early can make a big difference in your baby's life.*

### Why does my baby need another hearing test?

Some babies need another test because:

- Amniotic fluid/Vernix in the ear
- Baby was moving a lot
- Noise in the testing room
- Baby has a hearing loss

Most babies who need another test have normal hearing. Some will have hearing loss.

### Why is it important to have another hearing test as soon as possible?

- Testing is the only way to know if your baby has a hearing loss.
- The earlier a hearing loss is found, the better it is for the baby.
- If your baby has a hearing loss, there are many ways we can help your baby.

Finding hearing loss early can make a big difference in your baby's life.

**Finding out your baby has hearing loss at an early age, provides the best opportunity to assist your child's speech and language development. This is important for your child's future learning, social, and emotional well-being.**

### What will happen during my visit?

- A hearing screener will test your baby and tell you the results or tell you if more tests are need.
- The test is safe and painless.
- A few babies will need a more complete set of hearing tests by an audiologist, so you may be asked to bring your baby back.
- If your baby needs more testing, get it done as soon as possible.

### Can a Newborn Pass the Hearing Test and Still Have Hearing Loss?

- Yes, some babies hear well enough to pass the first test, but lose their hearing later because of:
  - some illnesses
  - some injuries
  - some medicines
  - family history of hearing loss
- Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows.
- Use the list on the back cover as a guide.

### My baby seems to be responding to sound. Do they still need another hearing test?

Most babies who have hearing loss will hear and respond to some sounds. Therefore, picking up hearing loss is impossible without using proper testing equipment.

### If hearing loss is found, what can be done?

Special hearing tests are performed by the audiologist (hearing specialist) to determine the type and severity of the hearing loss. If the hearing loss is permanent, hearing aids and speech and language services may be recommended for your baby.

You will be informed of choices for communicating with your baby including total communication, oral communication, and American Sign Language.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that free early intervention programs be offered to babies and children with hearing loss, beginning at the time the child's hearing loss is identified.

The outlook is good for children with hearing loss who begin an early intervention program before the age of 6 months. Research shows these children usually develop language skills on par with those of their hearing peers.

