

Facts About Hearing Loss

Infant Hearing Screening

Approximately 6 of every 1,000 babies have a significant hearing problem at birth.

- More than 4,000 babies are born with hearing loss each year.
- Babies are not able to tell you they have hearing loss and the first year of life is critical to the development of normal speech and language.
- Most states require newborn hearing screening tests.

If your infant has had a hearing screening and is unable to do some of the examples to the right (based on his or her age), schedule a follow-up appointment with an audiologist to have his or her hearing checked again.

Hearing loss in infants is a hidden disability, and it is important to pay attention to their development and get their hearing tested.

An infant with normal hearing should be able to do the following:

Around two months of age

- Startles to loud sound
- Quiets to familiar voices
- Makes vowel sounds like “ohh”

Around four months of age

- Looks for sound sources
- Starts babbling
- Makes squeals and chuckles

Around six months of age

- Turns head toward loud sounds
- Begin to imitate speech sound
- Babbles sounds like “ba-ba”

Around nine months of age

- Imitates speech sounds of others
- Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
- Turns head toward soft sounds

Around 12 months of age

- Correctly uses “ma-ma” or “da-da”
- Gives toy when asked
- Responds to singing or music

If you think you may have a hearing loss, visit www.HowsYourHearing.org and click on the “Find an Audiologist” link to locate and set up an appointment with an audiologist in your area to get your hearing checked.