

# Newborn Screening Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program



## What if my baby needs more testing?

If your baby didn't pass their newborn hearing screening or has risk factors for progressive hearing loss, get more testing as soon as possible. Babies and parents start communicating right away through voice, touch, and expressions, so cherish these special moments together!

### Why Does My Baby Need More Testing?

**Did not pass initial screening:** If your baby did not pass the newborn hearing screening, it could be due to temporary fluid in the ear, movement during the test, or actual hearing loss. To find out for sure, get more testing done by three months of age. **Risk Factors:** Even if your baby passed the initial test, certain risk factors could lead to hearing loss later. These include:

- o Family history of hearing loss
- o Exposure to certain infections before birth
- o Jaundice that requires a blood transfusion
- o Different head, face, or ear shapes
- o NICU stay over five days
- o Lack of oxygen at birth
- o Exposure to certain medications
- o Syndromes identified at birth

If any of these apply, or if you're concerned about your baby's hearing, get your baby's hearing tested between 9 -12 months.

### What Will Happen Next?

1. **Referral to an Audiologist:** Your baby's birthing facility will refer you to an audiologist (a hearing expert). Make sure the audiologist is experienced with very young babies. You can also ask for a referral from your child's doctor.
2. **Testing by an Audiologist:** The audiologist will perform tests while your baby is asleep or resting. These tests are safe and painless. They will determine if your baby has:
  - o No hearing problems
  - o Temporary or treatable hearing loss (for which your baby will be referred for treatment)
  - o Permanent hearing loss (for which ongoing care will be needed)
3. **Follow-up Care:** If hearing loss is detected early and addressed promptly, your baby is more likely to develop communication skills similar to their peers. If needed, you'll be referred to medical specialists, First Steps early intervention and given parent support through programs like Guide by Your Side.

### We're Here to Help:

#### Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program (EHDI):

- Part of Indiana's Newborn Screening Program.
- For questions about your baby's hearing or for assistance, call 317-233-0886 / 317-233-0888 (Spanish) or visit [www.hearing.in.gov](http://www.hearing.in.gov)

#### Ask Your Doctor:

- Contact your primary care provider for your baby's health and medical needs

#### First Steps Early Intervention System:

- Offers support for babies from birth to age three with developmental delays
- More information at [www.in.gov/fssa/firststeps](http://www.in.gov/fssa/firststeps)

#### For Questions regarding finding a physician, insurance or other family resources:

- Call 1-844-MCH-MOMS (1-844-624-6667) or visit [www.momshelpineindiana.com](http://www.momshelpineindiana.com)



**Want more information?  
Contact us!**

[NewbornScreening@health.in.gov](mailto:NewbornScreening@health.in.gov)

Newborn Screening Program  
Indiana Department of Health  
[www.NBS.in.gov](http://www.NBS.in.gov)  
phone: 888-815-0006

Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program  
Indiana Department of Health  
[www.Hearing.in.gov](http://www.Hearing.in.gov)  
phone: 317-232-0972

## Frequently asked questions

**Are there different kinds of hearing loss?** Yes. Some hearing loss from fluid or wax, can be treated medically. Permanent hearing loss typically requires amplification such as hearing aids. Your baby's audiologist will discuss available options.

**If my baby seems to hear fine, do I still need testing?** Yes. Mild or hearing loss in one ear can still cause speech and language delays, so it's crucial to have your baby tested.

**Is it okay to wait to have my baby tested?** No. Early detection is vital for speech and language development. Infants can be tested at any age. However, follow-up testing from newborn hearing screening should be completed before your baby is three months old for best outcomes. Testing for infants over 3 months may require sedation.



**How many babies are born with hearing loss each year?** In Indiana, about 2-3 out of every 1,000 babies are born with permanent hearing loss.

**What does "refer" mean in the context of newborn hearing screening?** It means your baby did not pass the hearing screening and needs additional testing to determine their hearing status. Follow-up testing should be done by three months of age.

**What is an audiologist?** An audiologist is a licensed professional with specialized training to test and diagnose hearing loss. Not all audiologists are equipped to test infants, so find one experienced in testing babies on our website.

**If my baby reacts to loud sounds, does he/she still need testing?** Yes. Different levels of hearing loss mean your baby might not hear softer or medium-level sounds. An audiology exam should be done by three months of age.

**Is hearing loss and deafness common?** Yes, hearing loss is one of the most common conditions detected at birth, affecting 1-3 babies per thousand. Early testing is important even without a family history of hearing loss.

**If my baby can't talk yet, isn't it okay to wait to test?** No. Babies begin listening from birth, and early detection of hearing loss is crucial for their speech and language development.

**How can I pay for the hearing test if I don't have insurance?** Medicaid and most private insurance plans cover these tests. Some providers offer free or sliding scale options. Check with the provider and consult our website for a list of available audiologists.

**Will the test be accurate if my baby has fluid in their ears?** Yes. Special tests can differentiate between hearing loss due to fluid and permanent loss. Repeat testing may be needed after the fluid resolves.

**If my baby passed in one ear, does he/she still need testing?** Yes. Hearing loss in one ear can affect speech, language, and learning. It's important to monitor and test both ears.

**Want more information?  
Contact us!**

[NewbornScreening@health.in.gov](mailto:NewbornScreening@health.in.gov)

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