

Newborn Hearing Screening

Baby Did Not Pass - Refer Hearing Result

What is Newborn Hearing Screening?

When your baby was in the hospital, tests were done to check your baby's hearing. All babies born in Minnesota have their hearing checked shortly after birth. While asleep, your baby's hearing was checked using computerized equipment. The screening test is painless and takes only a few minutes.

Why is hearing screening important?

Identifying hearing loss early is important. Speech and language start to develop right after birth, even though babies don't usually talk until about 1 year of age. A child with hearing loss may have difficulty with speech and language. If a baby has a hearing loss it is usually not noticeable to parents or doctors. Screening and follow-up testing are the **only** ways to find hearing loss early. Learning that your baby has hearing loss gives you and your baby a better chance to communicate and prevent speech and language delays.

What is a REFER Newborn Screen?

A REFER result means that your baby did not pass the hearing screen in one or both ears. Babies with a REFER hearing screen result **need further testing** to determine if there is a hearing loss. Your doctor, the nurses at the hospital, and your clinic can help you make an appointment with an audiologist. It is important to confirm hearing levels before 3 months of age.

What is an audiologist?

An audiologist is a person who specializes in hearing and who has appropriate equipment to determine if your baby has a hearing loss.

What kind of help is available for a baby with a hearing loss?

If the audiologist confirms that your baby has a hearing loss, there are many professionals who will help you learn more about hearing loss and the best ways to help your baby grow and develop language.

The following people can help you learn more:

- **Your baby's doctor:** can provide regular medical care to your baby as well as referral to medical specialists in areas such as otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat), genetics, and ophthalmology (eyes).
- **Audiologists:** test hearing, manage hearing loss, and provide amplification options.
- **Hands and Voices or other groups of parents whose children have hearing loss:** share how they helped their own children.
- **Help Me Grow:** free early intervention services to infants with hearing loss.
- **MCYSHN:** information about connections to early and on-going services.

What causes hearing loss?

There are many causes of hearing loss:

- Hearing loss can be inherited (passed through a family). Hearing loss can be genetic even if there are no other family members who were born deaf or hard of hearing.
- Hearing loss can be caused by infections, medications, or problems at birth.
- In some cases, even after testing, the cause of hearing loss may not be known.

Resources for parents

MN Newborn Screening Program:

www.health.state.mn.us/newbornscreening

MN Children with Special Health Needs:

(651) 201-3650 or (800) 728-5420

My Baby's Hearing:

<http://www.babyhearing.org>

Minnesota Hands & Voices: (651) 265-2435

<http://www.mnhandsandvoices.org>

Help Me Grow:

www.MNParentsknow.info