



ATTENTION PARENTS:



NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING
FOLLOW-UP GUIDE FOR REFER RESULTS

PLEASE BRING TO YOUR BABY'S DOCTOR

ATTN: Primary Care Provider: _____

Clinic: _____

Baby's Name: _____

Baby's Date of Birth: _____

Hospital: _____

Date of Last Hearing Screen: _____

Right Ear: Pass Refer

Left Ear: Pass Refer

An appointment for hearing testing/rescreen was made: Yes No

Date and Location: _____

FOLLOWING YOUR BABY'S HEARING IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

1. Your baby DID NOT PASS the hearing screen. This does not mean your baby has a hearing loss, but it does mean YOUR BABY NEEDS MORE TESTING to know for sure. Hearing CANNOT be tested at home. Babies with hearing loss can still startle and seem to respond to sound.
2. Bring this letter with you to your baby's first clinic visit and discuss it with the doctor. Quick follow-up is important to find hearing loss early and giving your baby the best start possible.
3. Make a plan for having your baby's hearing rescreened or tested as soon as possible.



REFER Results and Your Baby's Hearing



Hearing Screening is 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 spoken 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 can prevent delays.

If my baby REFERRED, does that mean he/she has a hearing loss?

A REFER result means that your baby did not pass the hearing screen. There are several reasons why a baby might have a REFER result. Sometimes there is fluid or debris in the baby's ear that can get in the way of testing - these babies can hear perfectly well. Other times, the baby really does have a hearing loss. Babies with a REFER hearing screen result need to see a hearing specialist (Audiologist) to determine if he or she may have a hearing loss.

Show this letter to your doctor or clinic who can help you make an appointment with a hearing specialist (Audiologist).

Can I check my baby's hearing at home?

Even though it may seem like your baby can hear at home - he or she jumps when there is a loud noise or turns when you clap your hands - it is still very important to have your baby's hearing checked again.

Some babies with hearing loss can startle to loud noises, but they can't hear softer sounds, like your voice.

Hearing testing helps to find all types of hearing loss, including hearing loss that you and your doctor might not notice. Your doctor or audiologist will explain more about what hearing tests will be done.

TALK TO YOUR BABY'S DOCTOR AT THE FIRST VISIT

Your baby's doctor or clinic can help answer any questions you might have about your baby's hearing.

Tell your baby's doctor or clinic about the hearing screening results so they can help you make an appointment for more testing.

If you have any other questions about hearing screening in general, please call the Newborn Screening Program at (800) 664-7772 or visit us online at www.health.state.mn.us/newbornscreening