

Common causes of infant hearing loss

Not all causes are known but some are:

- **Genetic factors** cause about 50% of cases of congenital hearing loss.
- **Staying in the neonatal intensive care (NICU) for more than five days** for reasons such as prematurity and lack of oxygen at birth.
- **Infections during pregnancy** such as cytomegalovirus (CMV) can damage the developing inner ear. Visit nationalcmv.org for more information.
- **Medications** including certain antibiotics and diuretics can be toxic to the inner ear.

If you have questions about your baby's hearing, talk with their health care provider.



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New Jersey Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

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Screening



Diagnosis



Early Intervention



Newborn Hearing Screening

New Jersey Early Hearing Detection & Intervention



Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)

EHDI is a national public health initiative that supports the '1-3-6' guidelines:

- Screen every newborn for hearing loss prior to one month of age
- Complete diagnostic audiologic evaluation prior to three months of age for infants that do not pass their hearing screening
- Enroll children diagnosed with hearing loss in early intervention services by no later than six months of age

Around 90% of babies with hearing loss are born to hearing parents.

Why should my baby's hearing be screened?

- New Jersey law requires hearing screening for all newborns.
- Most babies can hear well at birth, but a few do not.
- Babies whose hearing loss is not found early will have a hard time learning.
- Hearing screening is quick, safe, and painless.
- When you receive your baby's hearing screening results, recommendations for follow-up will be provided, if necessary.

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
- When spoken to, becomes quiet or smiles
- Makes sounds like 'ohh' or 'ahh'

3 to 6 months of age:

- Looks toward sounds with eyes
- Starts babbling (baba, mama, gaga)
- Uses many sounds, squeals, and chuckles

6 to 9 months of age:

- Turns head toward loud sounds
- Understands 'no-no' or 'bye-bye'
- Babbles (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

Children begin learning speech and language in the first few months of life. Children with hearing loss who get help early develop better language skills and learn to successfully communicate.

Why does my baby need another hearing test?

If your baby did not pass a hearing screening, you might have some questions. Some babies may need another test because of:

- Fluid in the ear
- Noise in the testing room
- Baby was moving a lot
- Baby has hearing loss

If your baby does not pass a hearing screening, make sure they are tested again as soon as possible. Most babies who need another hearing test have normal hearing, but 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 hearing loss. The earlier hearing loss is found, the better it is for the baby. If your baby has hearing loss, there are many ways we can help.

