

Babies and Suspected Hearing Loss

Your child's most important learning will take place between birth and 4 years of age.



In the first four years of life, the child learns how to communicate - first to understand what people say, and then to start talking himself. To do this, your baby must have usable hearing.

You can do some simple tests to find out if your baby has normal hearing, provided you know what to look for. The information here is a basic guide. As the weeks and months go by, check to see if your baby can do most of the things listed. If he can't, don't wait. He may have a hearing problem.

If you suspect that your baby has a hearing problem, tell your doctor immediately. If the doctor cannot accurately test your child, contact your local hearing and speech clinic. Your baby's hearing can be tested at any age. It is vital that a child with a hearing loss receive proper medical help and whatever special training is needed, as early as possible.



Checklist

Is startled by loud sounds. Is soothed by mother's voice.	birth to 3 months
Turns eyes and head to search for location of sound. Responds to mother's voice. Imitates his own noises - oohs, ba-ba's, etc. Enjoys rattles and other sound making toys.	3 to 6 months
Responds to his own name, telephone ringing, and someone's voice, even when not loud. Understands "no", "bye-bye", and other common words.	6 to 10 months
Can point to or look at familiar objects or people when asked to do so. Imitates simple words and sounds.	10 to 15 months
Follows simple spoken directions. First words are well on their way. By 18 months there should be many more words.	15 to 18 months