



Does Your Baby Hear You?

One of your baby's most important links to you and to the rest of the world is through sound.

Even before birth, your baby heard your voice, your breathing, and your heartbeat.

Within a few months, your baby will respond to sound by making sounds of her own.

If your child has a hearing problem, it is likely that you or one of the child's grandparents will discover it.

But before you can detect a hearing problem, you need to become aware of normal hearing development.

The following guidelines are designed to help.

If you answer "yes" to all the questions, your baby's hearing is probably normal.

But if you answer even one question with a "no," you should see an audiologist to have your baby's hearing evaluated. An audiologist is a professional trained in the evaluation of hearing and the treatment of hearing problems.

Babies can be tested within their first three months.

From birth to six months ...

*Is your baby startled or awakened by loud, abrupt noises?

*Does your baby respond to your voice?

*Does your baby coo to himself and imitate his own noises?

From seven to 18 months...

*Does your baby respond when his name is called?

*Does your baby understand or say "no," "bye-bye," "mama" and "hot"?

*Does your baby follow simple, spoken instructions?

*Does your baby imitate simple words?

*Does your baby babble many different sounds?

By 24 months...

*Does your baby repeat or say short phrases or simple sentences?

*Does your baby's voice sound normal?

*Does your baby answer simple questions?

Remember, if you answered "no" to even one question, you should have your child evaluated by an audiologist right away.

See an audiologist for a complete hearing evaluation if your baby has experienced any of these conditions or if your family has a history of childhood hearing loss:

- low birth weight (less than 1500 grams or 4 pounds)
- chronic middle ear infections
- meningitis
- premature birth
- anoxia
- high fevers
- upper respiratory infections
- birth trauma
- congenital infection (syphilis, rubella, CMV, herpes)
- high bilirubinemia level

Auditory Education Cantor, Inc.

**AEC...
Helping Babies to Hear**

For more information:
Universal Newborn Hearing Screening & Intervention
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/unhs/index.asp>
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