



- The re-screening test is the only way to confirm that a baby is deaf or hard of hearing.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends hearing screens for all newborns.

How Will My Baby's Hearing Be Screened?

Similar to the first hearing screen your baby had in the hospital or birthing center, the re-screening test is quick, painless, and most likely done while your baby is asleep. Soft sounds are played through earphones and either:

- microphones measure the echoes made by the ear called Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) or
- electrodes placed on the baby's head measure the brain's response using Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR).

You will receive the results of the screening before you leave the hospital or doctor's office.

What Can I Do to Prepare for My Baby's Hearing Re-Screening?

It is helpful if your baby is sleeping during the screening test. Here are some suggestions to help prepare your baby for the hearing re-screening:

1. Try to keep your baby from napping before the appointment.
2. It may be helpful to feed your baby right before testing to help him or her fall asleep.
3. Bring a swaddling blanket, extra diapers, and a change of clothes.

What Does a "Did Not Pass" or "Referral" Result Mean?

A "Did Not Pass" or "Referral" result means your baby needs another hearing screen. This result does not mean your baby is deaf or hard of hearing. Some things that may cause a baby not to pass the first time are birth fluid in the ear, an ear infection, or a baby who is crying or active during the hearing test.

Why Is It Important to Re-Screen My Baby for Hearing?

- Being deaf or hard of hearing is the most prevalent of all conditions that are screened at birth.
- Some babies who are deaf or hard of hearing may startle to loud sounds.
- A baby's first 6 months are vital for language development and learning potential.

Hearing and Speech Ages and Stages

Older babies and children can develop hearing loss. It is important to look for the following speech and language milestones.

Birth to 3 Months

- Quiets or calms to familiar voices or sounds.
- Reacts to loud sounds: baby startles, blinks, stops sucking, cries, or wakes up.
- Makes soft sounds when awake: baby gurgles.

12 to 18 Months

- Uses 10 or more words.
- Follows simple spoken directions, like "get the ball."
- Points to people, body parts, or toys when asked.

3 to 6 Months

- Turns eyes or head towards sounds: voices, noise-making toys, barking dogs.
- Begins to make speech sounds like "ga," "ooh," "ba," and p, b, m sounds.

18 to 24 Months

- Uses 20 or more words.
- Combines 2 or more words, like "more juice," "what's that?"
- Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words like b, g, m.

6 to 9 Months

- Responds to his or her own name and looks when called.
- Understands simple words like "no," "bye-bye," "juice."
- Babbling sounds like "da-da-da," "ma-ma-ma," "ba-ba-ba."

2 to 3 Years

- Uses 2- to 3-word sentences.
- At 2 years, people can understand what he or she says 25 to 50 percent of the time.
- At 3 years, people can understand what he or she says 50 to 75 percent of the time.
- Follows 2-step instructions like, "Get the ball and put it on the table."

9 to 12 Months

- Responds to both soft and loud sounds.
- Repeats single words and imitates animal sounds.
- Points to favorite toys or foods when asked.

If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, contact your baby's doctor. Remember: Hearing can be tested at any age.

How Do I Schedule the Hearing Re-Screen Appointment?

It is best to re-screen your baby when he or she is between 1 week and 1 month of age. The hospital may be able to perform the re-screen. If this service is not available at the hospital, then you can find a list of hearing screen providers by asking the hospital, your doctor, or the TEHDI program.

Who Pays for the Hearing Re-Screening?

Private and public insurance cover the hearing screening and any necessary diagnostic follow-up care. If you are interested in learning more about public assistance, contact Medicaid for eligibility requirements and enrollment instructions at 1-800-252-8263 or TexCare (Children’s Medicaid/CHIP) at 1-800-647-6558.

If your baby is covered under your private health insurance plan, then the newborn hearing screening test and any necessary diagnostic follow-up care related to the screening test from birth to 24 months of age are covered. For more information, contact your health insurance provider.

What Happens After the Re-Screening?

It is likely that your baby will pass the re-screen. A few babies will not pass the re-screen and need a more complete hearing evaluation. If your baby needs a diagnostic hearing evaluation, the person doing the re-screen may schedule the evaluation for you or refer you to another health provider such as a pediatric audiologist.

You and your baby’s doctor will be given the results of the hearing re-screen.



Where Can I Go for More information?

The Texas Department of State Health Services has a statewide newborn hearing screening program named Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI). The goals of TEHDI are:

- to screen babies for hearing by 1 month of age,
- to identify babies who are deaf or hard hearing by 3 months of age, and
- to connect those babies to appropriate services by 6 months of age.

TEHDI works directly with families, doctors, and hospitals. TEHDI collects information about your baby’s hearing screen to assist you and your baby in getting the services you may need.

TEHDI can assist you during any step in the process. Please call us toll free at **1-800-252-8023, ext. 7726**.

Email: tehdi@dshs.texas.gov

Website: www.dshs.texas.gov/tehdi



Source: California Department of Health Care Services, “Hearing Screener Refer.” (Brochure) #1-322_08/2017

TEHDI Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Your Baby’s Hearing Re-Screening Appointment

(Please call if you need to reschedule your appointment.)

Baby’s Name: _____

Appointment Date & Time: _____

Appointment Location: _____

Contact Number: _____