

## Speech, Language and Hearing Skills

Here is a list of some things a child with normal hearing can usually do:

### *Around 2 Months of Age*

- Startles to loud sound.
- Quiets to familiar voices.
- Makes vowel sounds like “ooh, ahh.”

### *Around 4 Months of Age*

- Looks for sounds with eyes.
- Starts babbling.
- Uses a variety of voice sounds, such as squeals, whimpers, and chuckles.

### *Around 6 Months of Age*

- Turns head toward sound.
- Begins to imitate speech sounds.
- Babbles “ba-ba”, “ma-ma”, “ga-ga.”

### *Around 9 Months of Age*

- Imitates speech sounds of others.
- Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye.”
- Turns head towards soft sounds.

### *Around 12 Months of Age*

- Correctly uses “mama” or “dada.”
- Gives toy when asked for.
- Responds to singing or music.
- Locates sound on all levels.

## For more information, please contact:

Audiology  
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 **Universal**   
**NEWBORN**  
Hearing Screening Program



### OUR VISION

The vision of Western Health is that the people of Western Newfoundland have the highest level of health and well being possible.



## It is important to have your baby's hearing checked.

As many as 6 in 1000 babies may have a hearing loss. Your baby cannot tell you if he or she can't hear. Babies who have hearing loss may have problems learning to talk.

At Western Memorial Regional Hospital (WMRH), we screen your baby's hearing before you go home. This is done to identify hearing problems as early as possible.



## Why should my baby's hearing be screened?

Some factors give a baby an increased chance of having or developing a hearing loss, for example: family history, skin tags/dimples around the ears, meningitis, birth weight less than 1500 grams (3.3 pounds).

However, over half the babies born with hearing loss are healthy and have no risk factors of hearing loss.

At WMRH every newborn's hearing will be screened before discharge. Risk factor information will also be collected to determine if extra follow-up is required.

## How will my baby's screening test be done?

The nurse will use a handheld computer to measure your baby's inner ear response to sound, usually when your baby is asleep. This procedure is safe and does not hurt your child... in fact, many babies sleep through it.



## What if my baby does not "pass" the screening test?

There are many reasons why a baby may not "pass" the hearing screen and may require follow-up evaluation(s). Hearing loss may be present or perhaps your baby was just too active or had debris in the ear canal.

## If my baby passes the screening, do I need to have my baby's hearing checked again?

The hearing screening can usually identify significant hearing concerns at the time of the procedure. If your baby has a family history of hearing loss or other risk factors, he/she will need to have further hearing tests by the Audiologist.



However, hearing loss can develop at any time, for many reasons: e.g. very high fever, childhood mumps, measles, or meningitis.

If you ever have concerns about your child's hearing, speech or language, please contact your Audiologist, Speech Language Pathologist, Physician, or Public Health Nurse.