my baby

newborn hearing test

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends hearing screenings for all newborns. Many hospitals offer the newborn hearing test before leaving the hospital.

What does the newborn hearing test look like?

The newborn hearing screening is simple. A small microphone and earphone are placed in the baby's ears. A sound is played and the echo from the baby's ear is recorded. If your baby has hearing loss, there will be no echo or a reduced echo. This test is painless and often conducted while your baby is sleeping.

Frequently asked questions

Why do we test hearing so soon?

It is best for newborns with hearing issues to receive help as soon as possible. With early detection, your baby and family can get the support needed. It also means that your baby will have the tools to ensure their success.

What happens if my baby doesn't pass their hearing test?

If your baby does not pass their hearing screening in the hospital, the test may be repeated or a different type of hearing test will be conducted. If the results are the same, your baby will be referred to an **audiologist** for additional testing. An audiologist is a medical professional who is trained to test hearing. There are a number of tests that the audiologist can do to figure out how severe the hearing loss is (if any) and what interventions and aids are needed. Your baby may also be referred to an **otolaryngologist** (ear, nose, and throat doctor) or other medical specialists.