**Approximately three of every 1,000 babies have a significant hearing problem at birth.[[1]](#endnote-1)**

* More than 5,000 babies are born with hearing loss each year.[[2]](#endnote-2)
* Babies are not able to tell you they have hearing loss and the first year of life is critical to the development of normal speech and language.
* Most states require newborn hearing screening tests.
* Infants and young children can have a hearing test at any age.
* If your baby does not pass the hearing screening, you will be asked to bring him or her to a follow up evaluation.

Even if your infant passed a hearing screening but is unable to do some of the examples to the right (based on his or her age), schedule a follow-up appointment with an audiologist to have his or her hearing checked again.

Hearing loss in infants is a hidden disability. It is important to pay attention to your child’s development and get his or her hearing tested if you have concerns.

**An infant with normal hearing should be able to do the following:**

**Facts About Hearing Loss**

Infant Hearing Screening

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Around two months of age* Startles to loud sound
* Quiets to familiar voices
* Makes vowel sounds like “ohh”

Around four months of age* Looks for sound sources
* Starts babbling
* Makes squeals and chuckles

Around six months of age* Turns head toward loud sounds
* Begins to imitate speech sound
* Babbles sounds like “ba-ba”
 | Around nine months of age* Imitates speech sounds of others
* Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
* Turns head toward soft sounds

Around 12 months of age* Correctly uses “ma-ma” or “da-da”
* Gives toy when asked
* Responds to singing or music
 |

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Identifying infants with hearing loss – United States, 1999-2007. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 59(8): 220-223. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/2009-data/2009-EHDI\_HSFS\_Summary\_508\_OK.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-2)