

## Hearing and Speech Checklist (to help monitor your baby's hearing)

### Birth to 3 months

- Settles to familiar sounds or voices
- Is startled by or jumps at sudden noises

### 3 to 6 months

- Turns head or eyes towards interesting sounds
- Appears to listen
- Wakes easily to sound
- Starts to make speech-like sounds

### 6 to 12 months

- Understands simple words, e.g. 'no' & 'bye-bye'
- Begins to copy speech sounds
- Turns head to soft sounds

### 12 to 18 months

- Appears to understand more words each week
- When asked, points to people, body parts or toys
- Follows simple spoken instructions e.g. 'sit down'
- Says two to three real words  
e.g. 'ball', 'dog', 'car'

## My baby's Audiology appointment

The Audiologist will want to test your baby's hearing sometime before 12 months of age. They will contact you to arrange a time.

### Audiology Appointment

Audiology Service: .....

Address: .....

Telephone Number: .....

Contact Person: .....

Date & Time: .....

### What if we can't make the appointment?

If you can't attend an appointment, notify your Audiologist to arrange another appointment.

### What if we move?

If you move to another town or city, call your Audiologist above and they will be able to advise you of an Audiology Service closer to you.

If your contact details or address change please let the Audiology service know, so they can notify you of appointments.

if you don't hear from your Audiologist by the time your baby turns one, contact your Audiologist to organise an appointment.

## Healthy Hearing Program



## Your Baby's Follow-Up Hearing Test

A child's hearing can change over time.

This brochure explains why it is important for some babies to have their hearing tested again by their **1st Birthday**, or earlier at **6 weeks of age** for some identified risk factors.



Queensland  
Government

Hearing can be tested at any age. If you don't have a current referral to an Audiologist and are concerned about your baby's hearing, ask your baby's doctor or local clinic staff for a referral to have their hearing tested by an Audiologist.

# Healthy Hearing is critical to your child's speech & language development from the earliest months of life

## My baby passed their hearing screen, why do they need another hearing test?

Your baby has one or more risk factors that may increase their chance of developing a hearing loss as they get older.

If your baby has any of the following risk factors they will be reviewed within **6 weeks** after their hearing screen:

- syndromes related to hearing loss
- head/facial structural problems e.g. cleft palate

If one or more of the following risk factors are present your baby will be reviewed by their **1st birthday**:

- family history of permanent hearing loss: this means parents or siblings with a hearing loss since childhood
- exposure to infections during pregnancy or birth
- assisted ventilation for more than 5 days after birth
- severe difficulties breathing at birth
- severe jaundice

Although only a small number of babies with these risk factors actually develop a hearing loss, it is still important to have an audiologist test your baby's hearing when they are a bit older.

## What is an Audiologist?

An Audiologist is a hearing specialist with the skills and equipment to carry out detailed hearing testing.

## My baby seems to respond to sound. Do they still need follow-up hearing tests?

Most babies with a hearing loss will still hear and respond to some sounds. Therefore, identifying hearing loss is impossible without proper testing.

## What happens during the hearing tests?

The Audiologist will do a number of hearing tests to check different parts of your baby's hearing system. They'll explain each test and the results at the appointment.

The tests will confirm whether your child's hearing is normal or if they have developed a hearing loss.



If you become concerned about your baby's hearing, you can call your Audiologist for an earlier appointment.

Your baby may need one or two appointments to get results.

## How much will the hearing test cost?

Publicly provided audiology services are free and available to medicare eligible babies, whether born in a public or private hospital. If you choose to go to a private Audiologist, you should discuss costs with them before the appointment.

Your screener will provide you with details of the Audiology services in your area.

## What if my baby has a hearing loss?

If your baby has a **temporary hearing loss**, your Audiologist will want to see them again. If the temporary hearing loss doesn't improve, the Audiologist will recommend your baby sees an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist.

If your baby has a **permanent hearing loss**, your Audiologist will refer them to some or all of the following:

- Childhood Hearing Clinic
- Ear Nose and Throat specialist
- Paediatrician
- Australian Hearing, for hearing aid/s fitting
- Queensland Hearing Loss Family Support Service (QLHFSS)
- other specialist services as required.

The QHLFSS will assist with linking you into these services.

Picking up a hearing loss early provides the best opportunity for your baby's speech and language development. It is important for their future learning, social and emotional wellbeing.