

## 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 Audiology team will want to check your baby's hearing sometime before 12 months of age. They will contact you to arrange a time.

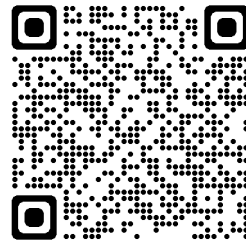
### What if we can't make the appointment?

If you cannot attend your appointment, notify your Audiologist as soon as you can *before the appointment* to reschedule.

### What if we move?

If you move to another town or city, call your Audiology service and they will be able to advise you of one closer to you.

### For more information on the Healthy Hearing Program, scan the QR code.



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 Audiology team by the time your baby turns one, contact your Audiology service to organise an appointment.

## Healthy Hearing Program



## Your Baby's Follow-Up Hearing Check

A child's hearing can change over time.

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



Queensland  
Government

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

## My baby passed their newborn hearing screen. Why do they need another hearing check?

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 offered a detailed hearing test within **6 weeks** of their newborn 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 offered Audiology screening by their **1st birthday**:

- family history of permanent hearing loss. This means parents or siblings of the baby with a hearing loss since childhood
- exposure to certain infections during pregnancy or birth
- severe difficulties breathing at birth

Although only a small number of babies with these risk factors actually develop a hearing loss, it is important to have this follow up check with an Audiology team.

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

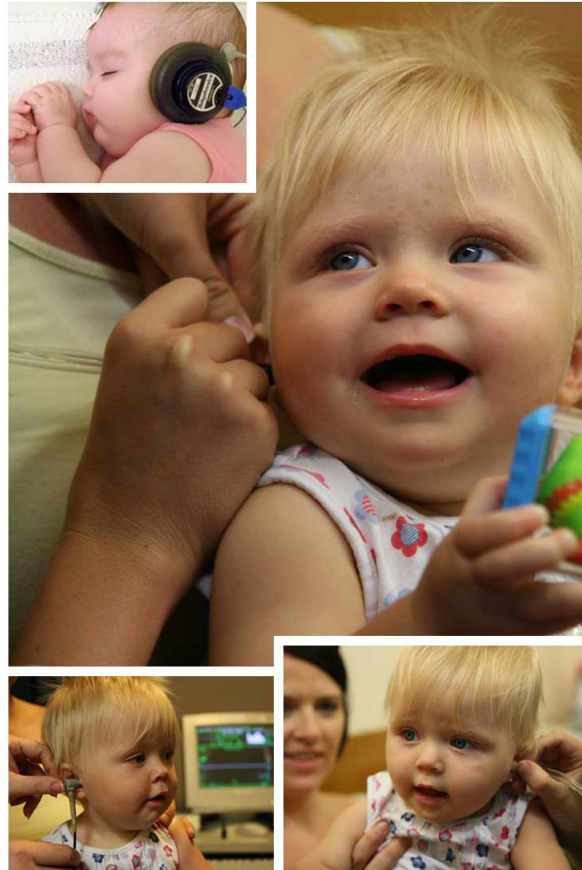
Most babies with a hearing loss will still hear and respond to some sounds. Therefore, identifying hearing loss is impossible without proper testing.

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.

## What happens at Audiology?

The Audiology team will 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 has enough hearing to develop speech and language, or if they have developed a hearing loss.



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

## The Audiology team includes:

An Audiologist who is a hearing specialist with the skills and equipment to carry out detailed hearing testing.  
An Allied Health Assistant or an Audiology Assistant who is trained to perform audiology hearing screens.

## How much will the hearing check cost?

Publicly provided audiology services are free and available to **Medicare** eligible babies, whether born in a public or private hospital. There may be costs involved for babies who are not covered by Medicare.

If you choose to go to a private Audiologist, we recommend you discuss costs with them before the appointment.

Your screener can 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 Audiology team will want to see them again. If the temporary hearing loss doesn't improve, the Audiology team 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
- Hearing Australia, for hearing aid/s fitting
- Healthy Hearing Family Support (HHFS)
- Other specialist services as required.

HHFS will assist with linking you into these services.

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