



# Newborn Hearing Screening

A hearing screening at birth is a simple test to tell parents if a baby might have hearing loss. Some babies who do not pass may still have normal hearing. Others may not hear as well and will need some help. Hearing screening is easy and not painful. In fact, babies are often asleep while being screened. It takes a very short time — usually only a few minutes.

## What's next if my child didn't pass the newborn hearing screening?

If a child does not hear well, we can act on this right away so that the child continues to learn and develop without unnecessary delays. That is why it is important for you to complete a follow-up screen as soon as possible. You may be asked to bring your baby back to the hospital for another hearing screen or you may be told to see an audiologist. If your child does not pass the outpatient hearing re-screen, your child should be referred to a pediatric audiologist for more detailed diagnostic testing. Be sure to find out whether the audiologist has the right equipment to test infants and young children. For a list of diagnostic centers go to [www.idph.iowa.gov/ehdi](http://www.idph.iowa.gov/ehdi).

*Knowing your child's hearing ability is very important in promoting learning and communication. So don't delay!*

### Check out these statistics:

**2 to 3 per 1,000 children**  
in the United States are born with a hearing loss in one or both ears.

**95% of babies**  
with a hearing loss are born to hearing parents.

**2 to 3 per 1,000 children**  
develop a hearing loss after birth.

**Over 50%**  
of babies born with hearing loss have no known risk factors for hearing loss

Hearing loss can affect a child's ability to develop speech, language, and social skills. The earlier children with hearing loss start getting services, the more likely they are to reach their full potential.

### Want more information?

Visit the Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Website at [www.idph.iowa.gov/ehdi](http://www.idph.iowa.gov/ehdi) or call us at 1-800-383-3826.



Iowa's Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program