



What does it mean if your baby **PASSES** the hearing screening?

Most babies who pass hearing screening have normal hearing. Sometimes a baby can pass newborn hearing screening but is later found to have hearing loss.

It is important to talk to your baby's doctor if you have any concerns, such as:

- Someone in your family has been deaf or hard of hearing since they were born, or they lost their hearing in early childhood;
- You are worried that your baby is not learning/talking like other children the same age;
- Your child has a lot of ear infections; or
- Your child has had a serious infection such as meningitis.

For more information call

Hawaii Newborn Hearing
Screening Program
808-733-9052

Website: health.hawaii.gov/genetics/programs/nhsp/



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Write or call the Hawaii State Department of Health, 1250 Punchbowl Street, Room 216, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 or at (808)586-4122 within 180 days. Or write or call the Affirmative Action Office at P.O. Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 or at (808) 586-4614 (voice/TRS) or 586-4648 (TDD) within 180 days of a problem.

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HAWAII NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING



INFORMATION FOR NEW PARENTS

Newborn Hearing Screening Program
Genomics Section
Children with Special Health
Needs Branch
Hawaii State Department of Health

What is newborn hearing screening?

Your newborn will have a screening test to check the baby's hearing. This will be done at the hospital soon after birth. For babies born outside of the hospital, the hearing screen can be arranged by a midwife or other healthcare provider.

Why is it important to have your baby's hearing screened?

About 3 out of every 1,000 babies are born deaf or hard of hearing. If your baby cannot hear, it is important to find out early. Early care will help with his or her learning and language.

How is the hearing screening done?

Hearing Screening is simple, safe and does not hurt. Your baby may be taken to a quiet room to do the screening while he/she is sleeping. Screening with tiny earphones can be done in two ways:

- Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) – to find out if the inner ear responds to a small sound
- Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR) – tiny electrodes will be taped to your baby's head to find out if your baby's brain senses the sound.

If you do not receive the results before leaving the hospital, ask the nurse.



What does it mean if your baby DOES NOT PASS the hearing screening?

If your baby does not pass, you will need to return to the hospital with him/her for another screen within two weeks. If your baby does not pass the second screen, an audiologist will do a hearing test that will find out if your baby can hear.

Where do you go for follow-up hearing testing?

Your baby's doctor or the hospital staff will help to make an appointment for your baby to have the hearing test. The Newborn Hearing Screening Program at (808) 733-9052 will help to schedule an appointment if the hospital does not have an audiologist.

How much does this test cost?

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of newborn hearing screening and evaluation. If you do not have insurance or cannot afford the cost of the test, The Newborn Hearing Screening Program will help to cover the cost. Contact the program at 808-733-9052 for more information.

What should you do if your child is diagnosed with hearing loss?

Families work with their baby's doctor, audiologist, and other healthcare providers to decide what services are important for their child.

If your child is deaf or hard of hearing, you can enroll your child in the Department of Health's Early Intervention Program. This program provides services based on the needs of the child and family.

You may contact the Early Intervention Referral line for information about services and support at:

- 808-594-0066 on Oahu
- 1-800-235-5477 (toll free) on Neighbor Islands

