



English
[DOH-8845]

I chose not to have my baby's hearing screened. What do I need to know?



Your baby will be offered a series of health checks in the first few weeks of life. One of these looks for hearing loss.

The hearing screen will be offered as soon as possible after birth and can take place in hospital before or after discharge, or at a local community location.

Parents may refuse to provide consent for their newborn's hearing screening. This will be recorded in your child's Personal Health Record (Blue Book). You will also be asked to sign a form confirming that when the screen was offered you declined.

If you choose not to have your baby screened, you should still be informed about the screen and its importance.

Why is the hearing screen offered?

About one to two babies out of every 1000 babies born will have a significant hearing loss.

It is important to find out as soon as possible how well your baby hears so that you and your baby can get the correct advice and support.

By the time children say their first word they have been listening to the way we talk for about a year.

If a baby is not hearing well during this time, their speech and language development may be affected.

If you want more information or you change your mind and want to have your baby screened, contact your local SWISH program coordinator as soon as possible.

What do I need to do as my baby grows older?

Hearing may not always remain the same over time. It is important to monitor your baby's speech and language development as well as their responses to sound.

You can refer to the checklist in the Personal Health Record (Blue Book) or the checklist overleaf to monitor your child's progress.

If you are concerned about your child's hearing or speech and language development in the future, please arrange to have your child's hearing tested. Ask your family doctor for a referral to an appropriate service for your child's hearing to be tested.

Hearing can be tested at any age.

For further information contact

NSW Department of Health

Tel (02) 9391 9000 TTY (02) 9391 9900

Email hearing@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Statewide Infant Screening – Hearing (SWISH)

Hotline: 1800 551 175

Website: www.health.nsw.gov.au/initiatives/swish

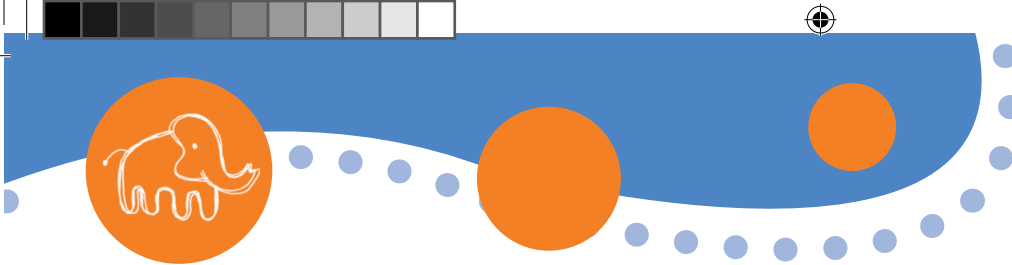
Local contact / appointment details

For health advice contact *Australia Health Direct* 1800 022 222



Health





HEARING CHECKLIST

Birth to 3 months	Reacts to loud sounds
	Becomes quiet with familiar voices or sounds
	Makes cooing noises
	Responds to speech by looking at speaker's face
3-6 months	Turns eyes or head toward sounds
	Starts to make speech-like sounds
	Laughs and makes noises to show how they are feeling
6-9 months	Babbles, 'dada' 'ma-ma' 'baba'
	Shouts/vocalises to get attention
	Will often respond to 'no' and own name
	Responds to singing and music
9-12 months	Imitates speech sounds of others
	Understands simple words, eg 'ball', 'dog', 'daddy'
	Turns head to soft sounds
	Speaks first words
12-18 months	Appears to understand some new words each week
	Follows simple spoken instructions, eg 'get the ball'
	Points to people, body parts or toys when asked
	Continually learns new words to say although may be unclear
18-24 months	Has between 100-200 words that they use regularly
	Listens to simple stories or songs
	Combines two or more words in short phrases eg 'more juice'

Notes:
