

COLORADO NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

Get your baby's hearing checked before one month of age

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

Each year in Colorado about 200 babies are born with a hearing issue. This can be in one ear or in both ears. Hearing differences may impact your baby's ability to communicate.

Your baby's hearing should be checked before one month of age. This test is called a "newborn hearing screening." Where this screening happens depends on where your baby is born. Most hospitals/birthing centers test your baby's hearing before they go home. Some midwives, audiologists, and doctors/primary care providers screen hearing too.

How will my baby's Newborn Hearing Screening be done?

There are two types of hearing screening tests.

- One screening test measures your baby's brainwaves to check how a baby hears soft sounds.
- Another screening test checks if your baby's ears respond well to sounds through a soft tip that is put in the baby's ear.



"We knew early detection was so important because we could get her extra help in her crucial years of early language development.

We were also glad to know if she didn't pass in that moment, we could get her the resources she needed to have every opportunity in life."

- Ryan Biehle (parent)

Both screening tests are very safe and only take minutes to do. Most babies sleep through the newborn hearing screening.

One or two hearing screening tests may be done before you leave the birthing facility; this is called the first attempt to screen your baby's hearing.

Why didn't my baby pass the Newborn Hearing Screening?

There are many reasons your baby may not pass the first attempt to screen your baby's hearing. Possible reasons include hearing issues, your baby moving or being fussy, or from treatable fluid in their ears. We cannot know why your baby did not pass their screen without further testing. It is important to have your baby's hearing rescreened.

Product of Colorado EHDI

Learn more at www.coehdi.org

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ANY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY YOUR BIRTHING CENTER STAFF, MIDWIFE, DOCTOR/PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER, AND/OR AUDIOLOGIST.

What if my baby does not pass the Newborn Hearing Screening?

Another hearing screening, called a rescreening, is needed if your baby does not pass the first attempt. The hearing rescreening should be done before your baby is two weeks old.

If your baby did not have the hearing rescreening, there are several places to get one. The hearing rescreening can be done at your baby's birthing facility, by a midwife, at a local hospital, by a local audiologist, or you can contact Leanne Glenn at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to find other places to take your baby for a hearing rescreening. **Contact Leanne at 303-692-2603 or Leanne.Glenn@state.co.us.**

If your baby does not pass the hearing rescreening, it is important to find out why. Your baby should receive a hearing evaluation from a pediatric audiologist as soon as possible; it is best to do this before three months of age. The person who did your baby's hearing rescreening, or your doctor/primary care provider, can help you find a pediatric audiologist. The Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Pediatric Audiology Links to Services (EHDI-PALS) is a national directory of pediatric audiologists: <https://www.ehdi-pals.org/>.

What if my baby does not receive a Newborn Hearing Screening?

Your baby might not be offered a newborn hearing screening test. Sometimes babies leave the birthing facility before the hearing screening is given. If your baby was born at home, the hearing screening may not have been done. If your baby did not receive a newborn hearing screening, there are several places to get one. **Contact the Newborn Hearing Screening Coordinator at 303-692-2603 or Leanne.Glenn@state.co.us to find a place nearby to screen your baby.**

If my baby passes the hearing screening, do I need to have their hearing checked again?

Yes. The newborn hearing screening tells you about your baby's hearing status in each ear at that point in time. But, hearing can change in either ear at any time. Here are some reasons:

- If you have family members who have been deaf or hard of hearing since childhood, your baby's hearing should be tested every year.
- If your baby has many ear infections, as your child grows, these may cause hearing issues.
- Illnesses and viruses, such as Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV), may cause hearing issues.
- Some children develop hearing issues after birth.



Scan the QR code for ASL translation.

Escanea el código QR para la traducción al español.

Hearing screening does not detect all hearing differences. You know your baby best. If you have concerns about your baby's development, be sure to talk to your baby's doctor/primary care provider.

Next Steps

If you ever have concerns about your child's hearing, listening, or language, talk to your child's doctor/primary care provider and/or the Newborn Hearing Screening Coordinator. If you want to learn more about your child's hearing, listening, or language, visit the links below to learn more: <https://bit.ly/3tOdtAI>

Contact Information

Hearing Screening and Rescreening
Leanne Glenn
Newborn Hearing Screening Coordinator
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Leanne.Glenn@state.co.us
303-692-2603