Some things a baby with normal hearing should be able to do:

Birth to 3 Months of Age
- Blinks or jumps when there is a sudden, loud sound
- Quiets or smiles when spoken to
- Make sounds like “ohh,” “ahh”

3 to 6 Months of Age
- Looks for sounds with eyes
- Starts babbling (“baba,” “mama,” “gaga”)
- Uses many sounds, squeals and chuckles

6 to 9 Months of Age
- Turns head toward loud sounds
- Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
- Babbles, for example “baba,” “mama,” “gaga”

9 to 12 Months of Age
- Repeats simple words and sounds you make
- Correctly uses “mama” or “dada”
- Responds to singing or music
- Points to favorite toys and objects when asked

If you have any questions about your baby’s hearing or this list, talk with your baby’s health professional.

Where else can I get information?
- Visit www.babyhearing.org
- Contact us at:

Newborn Hearing Screening Project
350 Capitol Street, Room 427
Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 558-5388 or
Toll Free in WV 1-800-642-8522

WEST VIRGINIA Department of Health & Human Resources

Office of Maternal, Child & Family Health West Virginia

Can Your Baby Hear?

Your Baby’s First Hearing Test

Can Your Baby Hear?

Why should my baby's hearing be tested?

- Most babies can hear well at birth, but a few do not.
- We test all babies to find the ones who may not be able to hear. Testing is the only way to know if your baby has hearing loss.
- It is important to find hearing loss as soon as possible. Babies whose hearing loss is not found early will have a hard time learning.
- If we find hearing loss early, there are many ways we can help your baby.

Make sure your baby's hearing is tested before you leave the hospital.

What should I know about the test?

- The test is safe and painless and can be done in about 10 minutes.
- Most babies sleep through the test.
- You will get the test results before you leave the hospital.
- Be sure to tell the hospital the name of your baby's health professional or clinic so they can send them a copy of the results.

Why do some babies need another hearing test?

- Some babies may need another test because:
  - *fluid in the ear*
  - *noise in the testing room*
  - *baby was moving a lot*
  - *baby has hearing loss*
- Most babies who need another test have normal hearing. Some will have hearing loss.
- If your baby does not pass the hearing test, make sure he or she is tested again as soon as possible.

Can a newborn baby pass the hearing test and still have hearing loss?

- Yes, some babies hear well enough to pass the first test, but lose their hearing later because of:
  - *some illnesses*
  - *some medicines*
  - *some injuries*
  - *a family history of hearing loss*
- Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows.
- Use the list on the back cover as a guide.