Use the milestones listed below to help you check your baby's hearing, speech and language development.

By *2 months* of age a baby with typical hearing should be able to:

- Quiet when hearing a familiar voice
- Make sounds like ahh and ohh

By *4 months* of age a baby with typical hearing should be able to:

- Look for sounds with his eyes
- Make sounds like squeals, whimpers or laughs

By *6 months* of age a baby with typical hearing should be able to:

- Turn his head toward a sound
- Make sounds like ba-ba, ma-ma, da-da

By *9 months* of age a baby with typical hearing should be able to:

- Imitate sounds made by others
- Understand no-no or bye-bye
- Turn his head toward a soft sound

By *12 months* of age a baby with typical hearing should be able to:

- Correctly use ma-ma or da-da
- Respond to singing or music

A baby with *mild or unilateral (in one ear) hearing loss* may also be able to do these things.

If you have questions or concerns about your baby's hearing, call your primary care provider or the Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

304-558-5388 or
Toll-Free in WV 1-800-642-8522

For more information:
www.dhhr.wv.gov/nhs

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of
Health & Human Resources
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health

Division of Research, Evaluation and Planning
Newborn Hearing Screening Program
350 Capitol Street, Room 427
Charleston, WV 25301-3714

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
Bureau for Public Health

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Newborn Hearing Screening

What you need to know before you have your baby

Many babies with hearing loss will react to loud sounds. The *only way* to know if your baby can hear all the sounds of speech needed to develop spoken words is to have a newborn hearing screening.

Before you leave the hospital, be sure you know the results of your baby's hearing screening. If your baby did not pass, they should be rescreened before **1 month of age**.

What can my baby hear during pregnancy?

- **By 9 weeks gestation your baby's ear structures are beginning to develop.**
- **By 25 weeks gestation your baby will begin to hear and respond to sounds.**
- **Your speech is one of the predominant uterine sounds that your baby hears. He/she is already learning language in the womb!**
- **Newborns prefer their mother's voice to that of another female.**

CMV AND HEARING LOSS

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that infects people of all ages; however, when it occurs during pregnancy, the baby can become infected potentially causing damage to their brain, vision, and/or hearing. CMV is transmitted through direct contact with body fluids, such as saliva, urine, tears, blood or mucus.

For more information go to: **www.nationalcmv.org**

Did you know?

Hearing loss is invisible

Most babies with hearing loss have no signs or symptoms. Infants with hearing loss cry and make other sounds just like other babies; some may even startle to loud sounds. Hearing isn't all or nothing. Your baby may hear some sounds but not all those needed to learn or develop speech. The first two-to-three years of life are the most important for learning language and how to communicate so **early hearing detection and intervention is critical for infant development.**

How a hearing screening is done

Your baby will be screened for hearing loss in the hospital several hours after birth. The screening takes 10 - 15 minutes while your baby is quiet or asleep. The screening is done with special equipment that is safe and does not hurt.

About 2 in every 1,000 babies are born with hearing loss.

Is my baby at risk for hearing loss?

If your baby has any of the following risk factors he/she may be at increased risk for hearing loss:

- Stayed in the hospital for more than 5 days
- You had an infection such as herpes, cytomegalovirus (CMV), toxoplasmosis, or rubella during pregnancy
- A family member was diagnosed with hearing loss as an infant or young child

Babies at risk can pass a hearing screening at birth but need more testing later. Newborn hearing screening also can miss mild hearing losses. Any time you have concerns about your child's hearing, you should talk with your baby's doctor and make an appointment with a pediatric audiologist as soon as possible.

90% - 95% of deaf and hard of hearing children are born to hearing parents.