

6 months to 9 months continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses sound (not crying) to get your attention. • Makes sounds like: “da”: “ba” : and “ma” • Waves when you say “bye bye.” • Hesitates when you say “no no.”
9 months to 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows names of favorite toys and can point to them when asked. • Follows directions such as “open your mouth” and “give me the ball.” • Dances and makes sounds to music. • Makes “b,” “g,” “m,” and “n” sounds when babbling. • Jabbers when being talked to and changes loudness of voice.
12 months to 18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points to body parts when asked. • Brings objects to you when asked. • Hears sounds coming from another room. • Gives one word answers to questions. • Imitates new sounds and words. • Says 10-20 words .
18 months to 24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands simple phrases like: “in the cup” and “under the table.” • Likes to be read to and points to pictures when asked. • Says own first name. • Says two word sentences such as: “my shoes,” “go bye bye,” and “more juice.”

24 months to 36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands negatives such as: “no more,” and “not now.” • Picks out the “big” ball from the “little” ball. • Answers questions: “What do you do when you are sleepy?” • Says 100 to 200 words .
24 months to 36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands uses of objects like: “show me what goes on your foot.” • Understands the concept of “one” and can hand you one ball or one cookie. • Knows boys from girls . • Can ask questions using “what,” “where,” etc . correctly. • Can tell you about something using four to five word sentences.

For more information, schedule an appointment at the nearest office.
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Your Baby’s Hearing

Newborn Hearing Screening

Every baby born in Maryland receives a hearing screening. Most infants are screened within two days of birth at the hospital. If a baby does not pass the screening, he or she is referred for an audio logic evaluation.

The purpose of newborn hearing screenings and follow-up evaluations is to identify hearing loss at a young age so that treatment can begin early. Research has shown that early intervention for hearing loss can greatly reduce or eliminate the effects of hearing impairment on achieving speech and other developmental milestones.

How is my baby's hearing evaluated?

There are two methods for evaluating hearing.

Behavioral measures: Calibrated sounds are presented through speakers in a sound-treated room. A young infant may startle to a very loud sound. At approximately 3 or 4 months of age, a baby will start turning his/her head toward sounds from the speaker.

Electro-physiologic measures: These include otoacoustic emissions (OAE), immittance measurements (tympanometry; middle ear muscle reflex) and auditory brainstem response (ABR). These tests measure different parts of the hearing pathway. Hearing status can be predicted from these tests.

A baby's hearing often may be assessed with one audiologic evaluation but sometimes two or three visits to the audiologist are required.

Other factors important in determining when to have an evaluation:

Parental Report: If a parent or caretaker does not feel that his/her baby hears well, it is important to schedule an evaluation.

High Risk Factors: Some babies are more likely to have hearing loss based on their medical history. Risk factors include use of certain medications as a newborn, a NICU stay for more than five days or hearing loss in the family. If a baby has a risk factor, it does not mean hearing loss will occur but that the baby must undergo an audio logic evaluation.

What are the types of hearing loss?

- Sensorineural hearing loss is usually permanent. Hearing loss can worsen over time.
- Conductive hearing loss is usually temporary. Conductive hearing losses may be due to fluid or congestion behind the eardrum.
- A less common hearing loss is one involving the 8th cranial ('hearing') nerve which extends from the inner ear to the brain.
- Some hearing losses are mixed and involve more than one part of the hearing pathway.

Most hearing losses are partial. A baby may hear some sounds but not others.

It is important not to delay the evaluation and treatment of hearing loss so that your baby's speech and language development are not affected. The State of Maryland tracks babies who need evaluation. Staff will contact you or your pediatrician for needed follow-up.

Early Intervention

Hearing aids are the primary means of treatment for permanent hearing loss. For babies with permanent hearing loss, the county school district can provide various services in your home (at no cost).

The audiologists at Audiology Associates, Inc., have been providing audiologic evaluations for individuals of all ages for more than thirty years. It is the largest and longest established audiology practice in Maryland with several offices in the greater Baltimore area, Annapolis and Easton.

Your Baby's Hearing Checklist

Birth to 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blinks or jerks to loud noises.• Cessation of activity and watches parent's face when talked to.• Coos and gurgles
3 months to 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looks to see where sounds come from.• Likes rattles and noise making toys.• Smiles and babbles when talked to.
6 months to 9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turns and looks at you when you talk.• Looks at right person when words, "Mommy" and "Daddy" are said.