

What if my child develops a hearing loss later?

Contact the **Connecticut Birth to Three System (800-505-7000 or www.birth23.org)** for free hearing intervention services for children up to three years old. It is recommended to enroll before six months of age. Also, the **American School for the Deaf (860-570-2393 or www.asd-1817.org)** has contracted with the EHDI program to provide free, family-focused services.

***Cytomegalovirus (CMV)** is a commonly occurring, easily transmissible virus that usually causes little to no harm in healthy people. **However, when it occurs during a pregnancy and infects the unborn baby, it is called Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) and may harm the hearing, vision, and developmental abilities of an unborn baby.** Connecticut law requires all birth facilities to test babies who fail their newborn hearing screening for cCMV. **Babies must be tested prior to 21 days of age to determine if it is congenital.** If your baby has cCMV, ask your pediatrician for referral to an infectious disease specialist today! Also, due to the high risk of hearing loss, it is also critical to have your baby's hearing tested regularly. See the included "**Audiology Facilities**" list. Be aware that in 2025, a new law will require ALL babies to be tested for cCMV at birth.

Reduce the FUTURE Risk of CMV Exposure:

According to the **National CMV Foundation (www.nationalcmv.org)**, those who are pregnant, planning on becoming pregnant, or who work in childcare or healthcare should practice the following to reduce the risk of contracting or spreading CMV:

- Do not share food, utensils, drinks, or straws.
- Do not put a pacifier in your mouth.
- Avoid contact with saliva when kissing a child.
- Do not share a toothbrush.
- Wash your hands after:
 - Wiping a young child's nose or drool.
 - Changing diapers.
 - Feeding a young child.
 - Handling children's toys.



Connecticut Department of Public Health Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program

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Voice: (860) 509-8251

Secure Fax: (860) 629-6965

Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1

Web: <https://portal.ct.gov/ehdi>

For more information about hearing screening
and testing for cCMV:



For more information about free services for
infants and young children who are deaf or hard
of hearing, contact:

Child Development Infoline

1-800-505-7000

www.birth23.org

**None of the information contained herein is
intended to replace advice by a healthcare
professional.**

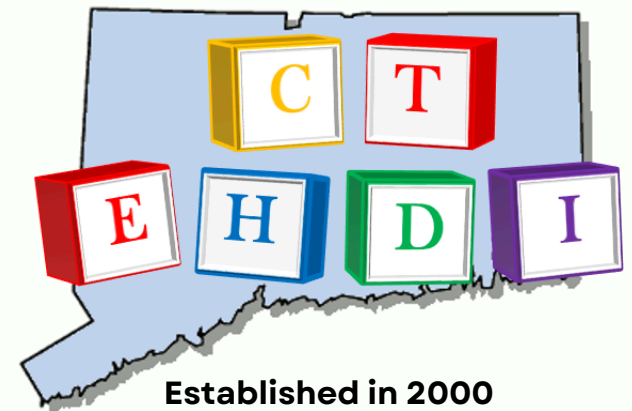
**This brochure is for birthing staff to give to the
parent/caregiver prior to or just after delivery.**

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Can Your Baby Hear?

Newborn Hearing Screening FAQs for Parents and Caregivers



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Why are newborns screened for hearing loss?

Two reasons: First, birth facilities are required to screen all newborns for hearing loss under Connecticut law (C.G.S. §19a-59). Second, hearing loss is one of the most commonly occurring disabilities in newborns. Newborn hearing screening identifies babies who need additional testing to determine their ability to hear. Most babies with hearing loss don't show any symptoms, which is why it's critical to have their hearing screened by one month of age.

How are babies screened for hearing loss?

A fast and painless method is used to measure your baby's responses to sound.

What if my baby PASSES their screening?

It is recommended to have your baby's hearing checked again, at least once well before 36 months old. The first three years of life are the most important for developing language and communication skills, and an undetected hearing loss could cause a preventable delay in speech and language development.

What if my baby FAILS their screening?

- **Step 1:** Before leaving the birth facility, be sure your baby was tested for congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV), which is a virus that may cause harm to your baby. Your baby must be tested before 21 days of age.
- **Step 2:** Schedule a diagnostic hearing test with an audiologist that specializes in pediatric cases today! This comprehensive test is the only way to know if a hearing loss is present. Your baby should complete their hearing testing before three months of age. To find an audiologist near you, see the included "**Audiology Facilities**" list.

Is my baby at risk of a hearing loss?

Ask your healthcare provider if your child has any of the risk factors in the enclosed "**Risk Factors for Hearing Loss**" list. Even if your baby passed their newborn hearing screening, these risk factors could still cause a hearing loss later on. If your baby has any of these risk factors, it is extremely important to discuss a follow-up hearing test schedule with your child's healthcare provider or a pediatric audiologist.

Audiology Facilities

The following audiology centers have the specialized equipment and experience to conduct hearing testing in infants and children:

Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Hartford*, Farmington, and Glastonbury, CT.
(860) 545-9642 or (860) 837-6300

Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

Waterford, CT. (860) 271-4900

UConn Speech & Hearing Clinic

Storrs, CT. (860) 486-2629

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital

New Haven* and Trumbull, CT. (877) 925-3637

**Denotes hospital-based audiology centers.*

Or, visit www.ehdi-pals.org for a list of pediatric audiologists by location.

Risk Factors for Hearing Loss

If any of the below conditions are present, have your child's hearing monitored regularly due to the increased risk of a hearing loss developing later on.

- Caregiver concern regarding hearing, speech, language, developmental delay or developmental regression.
- Family history of childhood hearing loss.
- **Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV)*.**
- Syndromes: There are many syndromes associated with hearing loss, please visit: www.hereditaryhearingloss.org.
- Ototoxic medicines including antibiotics in the Aminoglycosides family (gentamicin).
- In utero infections, such as herpes, rubella, syphilis, toxoplasmosis, Zika, etc.
- NICU stay > 5 days.
- Craniofacial malformations, temporal bone abnormalities, congenital microcephaly, microtia, atresia, or head trauma.
- Hyperbilirubinemia exchange transfusion.
- Asphyxia/Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy.
- Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
- Chemotherapy.

Your Baby's Hearing and Language Development Checklist

The checklist below presents the average age most babies accomplish early speech and language skills. If your child has not accomplished all the items by the end of the age range, contact your pediatrician and an audiologist.

Birth to 3 Months

- Reacts to loud sounds.
- Calms down or smiles when spoken to.
- Recognizes your voice and calms down if crying.
- When feeding, starts or stops sucking in response to sound.
- Coos and makes pleasure sounds.
- Has a special way of crying for different needs.
- Smiles when he or she sees you.

4 to 6 Months

- Follows sounds with his or her eyes.
- Responds to changes in the tone of your voice.
- Notices toys that make sounds.
- Pays attention to music.
- Babbles in a speech-like way and uses many different sounds, including sounds that begin with p, b, and m.
- Laughs.
- Babbles when excited or unhappy.
- Makes gurgling sounds when alone or playing with you.

7 Months to 1 Year

- Enjoys playing peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake.
- Turns and looks in the direction of sounds.
- Listens when spoken to.
- Understands words for common items such as "cup," "shoe," or "juice".
- Responds to requests ("Come here").
- Babbles using long and short groups of sounds ("tata, upup, bibibi").
- Babbles to get and keep attention.
- Communicates using gestures such as waving or holding up arms.

The above is an abridged checklist from the: [National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders \(www.nidcd.nih.gov\)](http://www.nidcd.nih.gov).