



Why would my child need another hearing test in early childhood?

Not all childhood hearing loss is identified at birth. Hearing loss can develop at any time for many reasons.

Some reasons to have your child's hearing checked:

- family history of permanent hearing loss in childhood
- noticeable differences of the head, face, neck, or ears
- certain medications given at birth for more than 5 days
- syndrome diagnosis that includes possible hearing loss
- admission to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for more than 5 days
- family or caregiver concern
- delay in speech and/or language development

VTEHDI will send a letter to you and your baby's care provider if more frequent testing is recommended.

For more information about the above list, and when and where to get a hearing appointment, visit healthvermont.gov/hearing.

Vermont Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (VTEHDI) Program

The VTEHDI Program tracks hearing screening results for all babies born in Vermont ensuring all babies have access to timely and appropriate hearing screening and follow-up.

For more information, visit healthvermont.gov/hearing



This brochure:

- is translated and available on our website in French, Arabic, Swahili, Burmese, Kirundi, Nepali, Somali, Spanish
- was updated and co-designed with family partners (2022)



Vermont Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
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Newborn Hearing Screening



INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Vermont Early Hearing Detection and
Intervention Program

Why should ALL newborns have a hearing screening at birth?

- Hearing is invisible. Families think they would be able to tell if their baby could not hear but that is not always the case.
- 1–3 per thousand babies are born with some degree of hearing loss.
- Newborn hearing screening can detect possible hearing loss in the first days of life.
- The first year of life is critical for speech and language development. When sounds and voices can't be heard, there may be delays.
- Only half of children with hearing loss have a known family history of hearing problems or other risk factors.

When will my baby have a hearing screening?

A hearing screening should be provided before you leave the hospital. Most hospitals screen a baby's hearing after they are 12–24 hours old.

If you give birth at home, your midwife will screen your baby within the first weeks of life.



Who will screen my baby's hearing?

The hearing screening may be done by an audiologist, nurse, trained technician, respiratory therapist, or midwife.

How will my baby's hearing be screened?

Hearing screenings are safe, quick, and painless. Most babies sleep the entire time as no response is needed from your baby.

A small probe is put into your baby's ear or ear cups over their ears and soft sounds presented. The equipment measures the responses, and the results will be available when the screening is complete.

What are the possible results of a newborn hearing screening?

PASS means no further action is needed at this time.

REFER means your baby did not pass the hearing screening. This does not confirm hearing loss, but follow-up hearing testing is needed.

Incomplete/Attempted means the screening had to be stopped early and another one is needed. This can be due to the baby's activity level, noise in the environment or problems with the equipment.

The results of your baby's hearing screening will be shared with you, your baby's health care provider and the VTEHDI Program.

What if my baby did not get a hearing screening or needs another screening?

The VTEHDI Program will call you and/or your baby's doctor to help you make an outpatient appointment. You can also reach out to VTEHDI (see contact info on the back of this brochure).

Outpatient appointments may be made at a community hospital, audiology office or pediatric health care provider office.



We use the 1-3-6 approach*

- 1 - Screen all newborns' hearing before leaving the hospital or before **1 month** of age.
- 3 - Babies who need further testing will have a diagnosis before **3 months** of age.
- 6 - Babies diagnosed with any degree of hearing loss will be referred and enrolled in specialized early intervention services before **6 months** of age.

* Based on the national Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH) Guidelines.