

Facts About Hearing Loss

Infant Hearing Screening

Approximately 6 of every 1,000 babies have a significant hearing problem at birth.

- ❖ More than 4,000 babies are born with hearing loss each year.
 - ❖ Babies are not able to tell you they have hearing loss and the first year of life is critical to the development of normal speech and language.
 - ❖ Most states require newborn hearing screening tests.
- If your infant has had a hearing screening and is unable to do some of the examples to the right (based on his or her age), schedule a follow-up appointment with an audiologist to have his or her hearing checked again. Hearing loss in infants is a hidden disability, and it is important to pay attention to their development and get their hearing tested.

An infant with normal hearing should be able to do the following:

Around two months of age

- ❖ Startles to loud sound
- ❖ Quiets to familiar voices
- ❖ Makes vowel sounds like “ohh”

Around four months of age

- ❖ Looks for sound sources
- ❖ Starts babbling
- ❖ Makes squeals and chuckles

Around six months of age

- ❖ Turns head toward loud sounds
- ❖ Begins to imitate speech sound
- ❖ Babbles sounds like “ba-ba”

Around nine months of age

- ❖ Imitates speech sounds of others
- ❖ Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
- ❖ Turns head toward soft sounds

Around 12 months of age

- ❖ Correctly uses “ma-ma” or “da-da”
- ❖ Gives toy when asked
- ❖ Responds to singing or music



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500 River Ave.
Lakewood, NJ 08701
732.942.5921



Monmouth Medical Center
Southern Campus
Barnabas Health

Department of Audiology

www.barnabashealth.org