PASS

A pass means that your baby has adequate hearing to develop speech and language. It is important to remember that sometimes a baby can develop hearing loss during their first few years of life so regular tests are recommended.

BABY HEARING MILESTONES

Hearing milestones are listed below so that you can monitor your baby’s development.

BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS:
- Is startled or jumps when there is a sudden noise nearby.
- Tends to wake up, stir or cry when there is noise.
- Quietens when they hear your voice.

THREE TO SIX MONTHS:
- Your baby turns their eyes towards interesting sounds.
- Appears to listen to voices and other sounds.
- Awakes easily to sound.

SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS:
- Turns head to soft sounds.
- Understands “no” and “bye- bye”.
- Begins to copy speech sounds.

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Hear Today, Shine Tomorrow
In the next couple of days, your baby will be offered a hearing screening.

Why does my baby need a hearing screening?

Some babies are unable to hear all the sounds needed to develop speech and language. Early detection of a hearing impairment provides an opportunity for early treatment and support for both children and families.

About the Newborn Hearing Screening Program

The program is part of the National Universal Neonatal Hearing Screening Framework administered by the Child and Adolescent Health Service, delivered by the Earbus Foundation in WA. The Program aims to screen all babies to identify a Permanent Childhood Hearing Impairment (PCHI). About 2 babies per 1000 born, are born with a PCHI which can be in one or both ears. By detecting PCHI early, children and families have a better quality of life through early treatment.

How is the test done?

Three stickers are placed on your baby (neck, shoulder and forehead), with small headphones on both ears. Your baby will then hear soft sounds.

- Your baby can remain asleep
- Screening is quick and simple (around 15 minutes)
- You receive results immediately

When will the test be done?

Your baby can be tested 6 hours after being born, however may be tested in the next few days before you are discharged from hospital. They will be tested at a time they are comfortable and in a quiet space.