



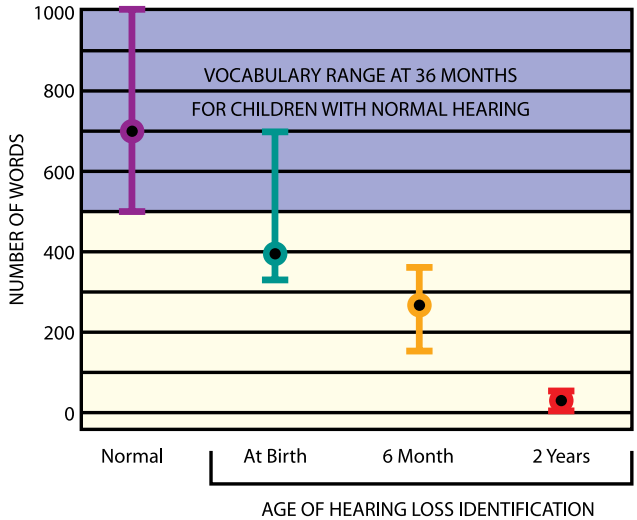
Your Baby's Hearing



THE IMPORTANCE OF SCREENING YOUR BABY FOR HEARING LOSS

It is important to find out about your baby's hearing early in life, because **the most important period for a child's speech & language development is from birth to six months of age.**

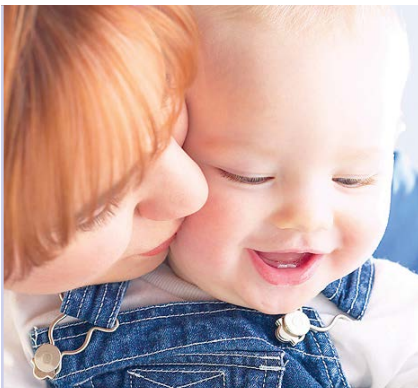
Studies show that children with hearing loss detected at birth can, with the appropriate treatment, learn and progress at a rate comparable to that of children with normal hearing. Children whose hearing loss goes undetected until later may never catch up to those with normal hearing.



(Source: Marion Downs National Center for Infant Hearing, 1997)

HEARING SCREENS ARE FAST, SIMPLE & PAINLESS

Hearing screens are routinely performed on babies before they leave the hospital. The procedure is painless, and it determines within minutes the current status of your baby's hearing.



It's never too soon to test your child's hearing. Treatment is available at any age. If at any time you suspect a problem, consult your baby's doctor.

HEARING & SPEECH DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

The checklist below is a basic guide for normal hearing and speech development from birth to three years of age.* If your baby's progress does not match the milestones listed below, or if you suspect there is a problem, consult your baby's doctor.

BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS

- Recognizes & quiets to parent's voice
- Startles to loud noises

3 TO 6 MONTHS

- Awakens to sounds or speech
- Turns towards interesting sounds

6 TO 12 MONTHS

- Understands first words such as "Da-Da," and "Ma-Ma"
- Responds to his or her name
- Enjoys sounds from rattles and similar toys
- Coos to music

12 TO 18 MONTHS

- Says first words such as "Da-Da" and "Ma-Ma"
- Responds to names of favorite toys by pointing to them when asked
- Responds to sounds coming from far away

18 TO 24 MONTHS

- Has a vocabulary of approximately 20 words
- Speaks two word phrases
- Understands simple "yes" and "no" questions
- Refers to self by name
- Follows simple directions

24 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

- Has a vocabulary of approximately 270 words by 24 months & 1000 words by 3 years
- Wants to speak to communicate needs, wants & experiences
- Speaks simple sentences
- Recognizes different sounds
- Understands most of what is said to him or her



**References available upon request*



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