

Florida's Newborn Screening Program

Screening— an important beginning

More helpful information is available by contacting:
Children's Medical Services
Newborn Screening Program
1-866-289-2037
www.cms-kids.com

Why does my baby need Newborn Screening tests?

- Most babies are just fine when they are born.
- We test all babies because a few babies look healthy but have a rare health problem.
- If we find problems early, we may prevent serious problems like mental retardation or death.

How will my baby be tested?

- Before you leave the hospital, a few drops of blood will be taken from your baby's heel.
- The hospital will send the blood sample to the Florida Newborn Screening Lab in Jacksonville.

How will I get the results of the test?

- Your baby's doctor will be given the results by the hospital. Be sure to tell the hospital the correct name and phone number of your baby's doctor so they can send the results.
- Ask about the results when you see your baby's doctor.

Why do some babies need to have the screening repeated?

- Some babies need to have the screening repeated because there is a problem with the blood sample.
- All babies who leave the hospital earlier than 48 hours must have the screening repeated within 5 days of age.
- A few babies need to have the screening repeated because the first test showed a possible health problem.
- If your baby needs to have the screening repeated, get it done right away.
- Parents are notified of test results if there is a problem.

What babies need to have additional testing?

- Your baby may have an abnormal screening result that indicates more testing is needed.
- You will be contacted if your baby needs to have additional testing. You will be told why your baby needs to have additional testing and what to do next.
- If your baby needs additional testing, get it done right away.
- Make sure that your hospital and doctor have your correct address and phone number.

What if I have questions?

- Ask your baby's doctor if you have questions or concerns.
- Go to www.cms-kids.com.



Why do some babies need another hearing test?

- Some babies may need another test because:

fluid in the ear

noise in the testing room

baby was moving a lot

baby has hearing loss

- Most babies who need another test have normal hearing. Some will have hearing loss.
- If your baby does not pass the hearing test, make sure he or she is tested again as soon as possible.

Can a newborn baby pass the hearing test and still have hearing loss?

- Yes, some babies hear well enough to pass the first test, but lose their hearing later because of:

some illnesses

some medicines

some injuries

a family history of hearing loss

Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows.

Some things a baby with normal hearing should be able to do:

Birth to 3 months of age

Jumps or blinks to loud sounds

Wakes up to loud sounds

Quiets or smiles when spoken to

Makes vowel sounds like “ohh,” “ahh”

3 to 6 months of age

Looks for sound with eyes

Starts babbling (“baba,” “mama,” “gaga”)

Responds to your voice even when you cannot be seen

Enjoys toys that make noise

Uses a variety of sounds, squeals, chuckles

6 to 9 months of age

Turns head toward loud sounds

Responds to his or her name

Begins to imitate speech sounds

Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”

9 to 12 months of age

Repeats simple words and sounds you make

Correctly uses “mama” or “dada”

Responds to singing or music

Points to favorite toys and objects when asked

12 to 18 months of age

Follows simple one step directions

Uses 3–20 single words

Points to 1–3 body parts when asked

18 to 24 months of age

Understands about 300 words

Puts two words together (“eat cookie”)

Points to 5 body parts

Responds to “yes” or “no” questions

If you have questions about your baby’s hearing or this list, talk with your baby’s doctor.

Where else can I get information?

Visit www.cms-kids.com or www.babyhearing.org