



Most babies can hear well at birth, but a few do not. All babies are screened to make sure they are hearing normally. It is important to detect hearing loss as soon as possible. If hearing loss is detected early, it is easier for babies to learn.

You may have questions about the hearing screening test or your baby's hearing. Or maybe your baby has been diagnosed with a hearing loss.

A child with undetected hearing loss may not be able to develop normal speech and language or acquire the cognitive abilities (knowing, thinking, and judging) needed for learning. The early identification of hearing loss permits the initiation of treatment and rehabilitation of the hearing-impaired child at a very young age. The child can then learn more normal speech and language skills when hearing loss is identified early and intervention begins.

The degree of hearing loss often determines the impact it will have on the child throughout life. However, with early identification and treatment, the impact can be lessened.