



**Your baby received a pass result from the hearing screening, which means that he or she is able to hear in both ears at this time.**

*your baby passed*  
the newborn hearing screening

*your baby's hearing has just been screened*

#### **Taking care of your baby's hearing**

Hearing loss can develop as your baby grows older. It is important to be aware of risk factors which can lead to hearing loss.

- an immediate family member with permanent hearing loss from childhood
- malformations of the head or neck
- birth weight less than 1500 grams (3.3 pounds)
- high bilirubin (jaundice) requiring blood exchange
- infection of the brain
- presence or suspicion of a syndrome
- breathing problems requiring a ventilator
- head trauma
- chronic ear infections
- serious infection during pregnancy or at birth
- Apgar score of 0-4 at 1 minute, or 0-6 at 5 minutes (test done at birth)
- chemotherapy

If you suspect a change in your child's hearing, or your child has any of the above risk factors, contact your nearest audiology clinic.

#### **Yukon Newborn Hearing Program**

Contact information:

Yukon Hearing Services  
204-4114 Fourth Avenue  
Second Floor, Royal Bank Building  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4N7

Phone: (867) 667-5913 or  
toll-free anywhere in Yukon:  
1-800-661-0408, local 5913.

Fax: (867) 667-5922

Web: <http://www.hss.govyk.ca>



#### **Why do newborn babies receive a hearing screening?**

Newborn hearing screenings are essential in identifying hearing loss. Good hearing is important for speech and language development. The earlier hearing difficulties are identified, the sooner support and intervention can begin.

#### **How was my baby's hearing screened?**

Sounds are presented to each ear with a soft earbud. A computer measures the ear's response and a result is given immediately. The screening takes only a few minutes when the baby is quiet or sleeping.

# Ages and Stages

The ages and stages listed below show some of the milestones that mark the progress of young children as they develop speech and language skills. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these milestones, call Yukon Hearing Services.

## birth to 3 months

- looks at you while getting fed
- quiets when hearing familiar voices and sounds
- makes cooing and gurgling sounds
- is startled by loud noises

### What you can do:

- look at your baby when feeding, bathing or changing him/her
- talk and sing to your baby
- make cooing and gurgling sounds back to your baby

## 3 to 6 months

- turns eyes or head toward sounds
- responds to you by making sounds and/or moving arms and legs
- smiles and laughs
- begins to make speech-like sounds – *buh, ma, boo*

### What you can do:

- smile and laugh with your baby
- show interest in the sounds your baby is making and repeat them back
- provide a variety of sounds (e.g., music, outside noises, animal sounds, toys) and show excitement in the sounds you hear
- tell your baby what you are doing when you feed, bath or dress him/her

## 6 to 9 months

- responds to hearing their own name
- understands “no”
- looks at common objects or family members when their names are mentioned
- babbles sounds in a series – *bababa, dadada, mamama*

### What you can do:

- point to people, pictures and common objects and say their names
- look at books, point to the pictures and name them
- say sounds back and forth with your child as long as he/she is interested
- sing songs

## 9 to 12 months

- understands simple requests – “give it to mommy,” “don’t touch”
- understands simple questions – “where’s your ball?”
- uses gestures or sounds to let you know what he/she wants or needs
- says first word
- begins to play *pat-a-cake* and *peek-a-boo*

### What you can do:

- encourage your child to use gestures and respond to them (e.g., when child raises arms to be picked up, say “you want up?” and then pick the child up)
- talk about things you are doing using simple words and short sentences
- listen carefully to the sounds your child makes. You may hear their first word, e.g., *ba* for “ball,” *u* for “up,” *mook* for “milk”
- play with your child and have fun

## 12 to 18 months

- follows simple spoken directions, such as “get the ball”
- points to people, body parts or toys when asked
- uses connected sounds that sound like sentences in a different language (gibberish)
- uses 10 or more words
- uses common expressions – *oh no, all gone*

### What you can do:

- look at books and tell stories about the pictures, or choose books that your child can hold (e.g., board, cloth or bath books)
- talk back to your child when he/she talks to you
- use real words, not baby talk (e.g., say “give me” instead of *ta ta* and “bottle” not *baba*)
- pay attention to what your child is saying, not how he/she says it
- play games and use toys and objects that your child enjoys

## 18 to 24 months

- uses 20 or more words
- combines two or more words, such as “more juice”
- uses many different speech sounds at beginning of words, such as *p, b, m, t, d, n*
- takes turns “talking” back and forth with you
- listens to simple stories, rhymes and songs

### What you can do:

- use different kinds of words when you talk with your child (in, big, happy, jumping)
- encourage your child to play with other children (e.g., library story times, play groups)
- name and copy different sounds your child hears (e.g., dog barking, bird singing, fire engine siren)
- use the adult way of saying words or phrases without correcting your child directly (e.g., child says *daddy car*, you say “Yes, daddy’s in the car. Let’s go.”)

