



**One Simple  
Test Can  
Make a  
Difference  
for Your  
Child**



# Maine Newborn Hearing Screening

## Why should my baby's hearing be tested?

- Hearing loss is one of the most common chronic birth conditions found in children.
- Testing is the only way to know if a baby has hearing loss.
- If your baby has a hearing loss, it is important to find out early, because an undiagnosed hearing loss can delay your baby's learning and language development, and there are resources available to help.

## What should I know about the hearing screening?

- Hearing screening is available for all infants born in Maine.
- This is a simple process—soft sounds are presented through headphones while your baby sleeps naturally.
- It is painless and takes only minutes.
- You can be present while your baby is screened.
- This screening will help you know if your baby needs a full hearing test.
- If your baby does not pass the first hearing screening, make sure that they are seen by an audiologist for a full hearing test as soon as possible. Your healthcare provider can help with the referral.

## What do the results mean?

### Pass:

- Your baby passed the hearing screening.
- Monitor speech and language milestones, as hearing loss can develop later in childhood.

### Pass with risk factor(s):

- Your baby passed but has a risk factor(s).
- Talk to your healthcare provider as more testing may be needed to monitor speech and language milestones.

### Refer:

- Your baby did not pass and needs more testing by an audiologist (hearing professional).
- This does not necessarily mean that there is a hearing loss, but follow-up testing will help you to learn how your baby hears.



## **Maine CDC Newborn Hearing Program**

286 Water Street, 7th floor  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Phone: 207-287-8427

Fax: 207-287-4743

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

Website: [www.mainepublichealth.gov/MNHP](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/MNHP)

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