

A guide to your child's hearing and speech development

12-18 months

- Follows simple spoken directions
- Points to people, body parts or objects when asked
- Uses 10 or more words

18 - 24 months

- Listens to simple stories and songs
- Uses 20 or more words
- Combines 2 or more words

2 - 3 years

- Follows 2-step instructions
- Uses 2 or 3 words sentences
- At age 2, people can understand what he/she says some of the time
- At age 3, people can understand what he/she says most of the time

3 - 4 years

- Hears when called from another room
- Hears television or radio at the same loudness level as others
- Answers simple "Who?", "What?", "Where?", "Why?" questions

4 - 5 years

- Pays attention to short story and answers simple questions about it
- Hears and understands most of what is said
- Uses complex sentences, with words like - and, but, because, if, when, so, before, after.

This is only a Guideline.

Please consult your child's Paediatrician if you have any concern.

For more information, kindly contact us at:

Speech & Hearing Centre Sunway Medical Centre

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Our Audiology Clinics and Speech Therapy Clinics are located on the 2nd Floor, East Wing.

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The importance of screening your newborn's hearing

Identification of hearing loss in infants and children is critical since hearing is closely linked to the development of normal speech and language skills.



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Newborn
Hearing
Screening
Programme



What is the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme?

SunMed Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (SNHS) is a programme implemented by Sunway Medical Centre to help identify hearing loss in newborns. It also provides family members with guidance on the appropriate services that may be required if hearing loss is discovered. This programme was developed based on the policy statement of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to ensure quality and reliability. Parents will be given the opportunity to have their newborn's hearing screened during their stay at the hospital.

Why Screen Your Baby's Hearing?

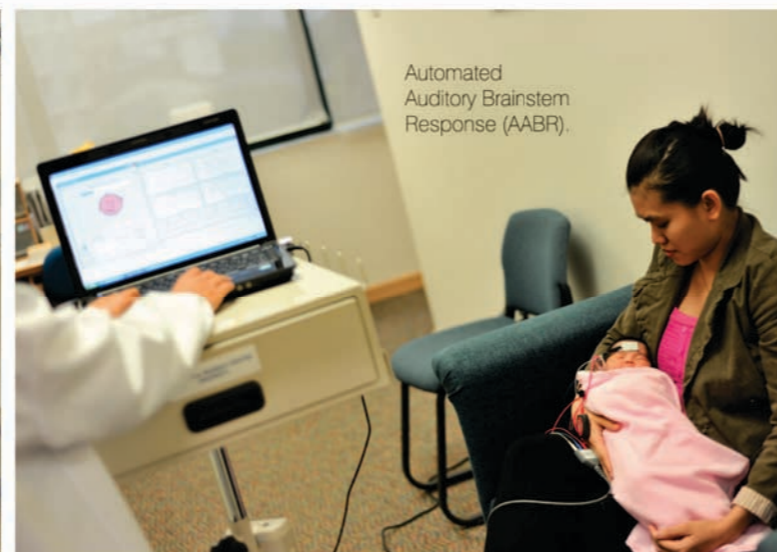
Hearing loss is found in about 2 to 4 out of 1000 babies. These babies may not have any symptom or show any sign of hearing loss. Although some babies may develop hearing loss later in life due to repeated ear infections, meningitis or other medical conditions; by screening the hearing, early intervention can be carried out for those who are found to have hearing loss. Early identification and intervention of hearing loss are important because the first months and years of the child's life are vital for the development of communication skills.



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A Guide to Your Child's Hearing and Speech Development



Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR).



Birth to 3 months

- Quiets to familiar voices or sounds
- Reacts to loud sounds like startles, blinks, stops sucking, cries or wakes up
- Makes gurgling sounds when awake indicating pleased, happy or excited
- Increases or decreases sucking behaviour in response to sound

3 - 6 months

- Turns head or eyes to find a sound
- Shows reaction towards the change in your voice intonation
- Notices toys that make sounds
- Pays attention to music
- Starts making speech like sounds like 'ba', 'ooh', 'ga'

6 - 9 months

- Starts responding to own name/ Looks when called
- Enjoys noisy toys
- Smiles when spoken to
- Babbles/Produces repetitive syllables like 'ba ba ba', 'ma ma ma', 'da da da'

9 -12 months

- Responds to soft and loud sounds
- Points to favourite toys when asked
- Repeats single words
- Imitates animal sounds



When will the Screening Test be Done on Your Baby?

It will be done soon after birth and before your baby is discharged from the hospital.

How Do We Screen Your Baby's Hearing?

A trained hearing screener under the supervision of our Audiologists will perform the test which takes only a few minutes while your baby sleeps. No sedative or anaesthetic is used. Soft sounds are introduced through special earphones for babies, connected to a computer. With 3 soft electrodes pasted on your baby's forehead and ear/neck areas, the computer will automatically measure your baby's responses to sound. This screening test is known as Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR).

Will the Screening Test be Painful for Your Baby?

No. It does not hurt and will not cause discomfort to your baby.

How Reliable are the Results?

Today's methods are very reliable and it is rare to miss a baby with hearing loss.

When will You Get the Results of the Screening Test?

Our Paediatrician will inform you of the results before your baby is discharged from the hospital.

What Do the Results Mean?

If your baby passes the screening test, it means that he/she is unlikely to have a hearing loss at the test point of time. After the screening, you will be given written information on speech and hearing development so that you have an idea of what responses and sounds to expect from your baby as he/she grows older. If you have any concerns about your child's hearing and speech development later, discuss them with your baby's Paediatrician or family doctor. Your child's hearing can be tested at any age.

If the results showed 'refer', your baby needs to undergo a second screening test. We will perform the second screening after the initial screening. If the same response is obtained, you will be asked to bring your baby back for further tests. An appointment will be arranged with our Audiologist for the re-screening, normally after a month.