

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a hearing screening for all newborns



Screening helps providers know if your child needs additional testing to determine if there are concerns with hearing. If your baby does not pass the newborn hearing screening, the rescreening should be completed 2-4 weeks after your baby is discharged from the hospital. Your baby will see an audiologist for the screening. An audiologist is a specialized healthcare professional who is trained to test hearing. There are two types of testing, and the audiologist will talk with you to determine which test is best for your baby.

ABR



Auditory Brainstem Response measures the response from the hearing nerve when sounds are played from small earphones to baby's ears. Band-Aid like electrodes are placed on baby's head and record the nerve responses to the sounds.

ABR screening works best when baby falls asleep for the screening.

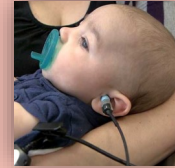
The total screening time is 15-60 minutes.

Additional testing is needed about 3% of the time. As a baby gets older, they may require sedation under general anesthesia to complete the ABR screening.

ABR screening can miss low-frequency or mild hearing loss.

Costs vary based on your insurance provider and deductible status. ABR screening is more expensive than OAE screening.

OAE



Otoacoustic Emissions measures responses from baby's inner ear. Sounds from a small earphone are played to baby's ears. A microphone picks up echoes from those sounds that have been reflected back into the ear canal.

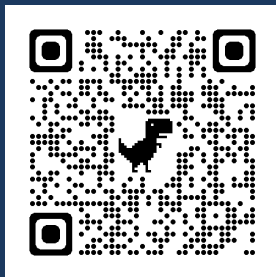
The baby should be calm, quiet, and still (awake or asleep) during the OAE screening.

The total screening time is 10-20 minutes.

Additional testing is needed about 10% of the time, and ABR is often the next step if baby fails the OAE screening.

OAE screening can miss low-frequency or mild hearing loss, or auditory neuropathy (the inner ear detects sound, but has a problem sending sound from the ear to the brain).

Costs vary based on your insurance provider and deductible status. OAE screening is less expensive than ABR screening.



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Scan for more information
and a short video about
newborn hearing screening