

If for some reason your new baby's hearing was not screened before you went home from the hospital, contact your nearest Infant Hearing Program listed on the back of this brochure.

Some babies will also have a hearing assessment

Even though most babies pass the hearing screening, some babies will have a *refer* result and will need a hearing assessment. The hearing assessment is performed by an audiologist who is an expert in testing babies' hearing. Your regional Infant Hearing Program will arrange an appointment for you.

Most babies who receive a *refer* result have perfectly normal hearing. Debris in the ear canal or fidgeting during the screening are the most likely reasons for a *refer* result. However, if your baby does have a hearing problem, the audiologist will direct you to the services and supports that are available to help you and your child.

Regional Infant Hearing Programs

Ontario's Infant Hearing Program provides its services at no cost to you through the following regional offices:

Windsor-Essex and Kent-Chatham
contact "Talk 2 Me"
519-254-5577 ext. 52595

Middlesex, London, Oxford,
Elgin-St. Thomas, Sarnia-Lambton,
Huron-Perth and Grey Bruce
Owen Sound contact "tykeTALK"
519-663-5317 ext. 2224
www.tyketalk.com

Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, Brant
and Haldimand-Norfolk
contact "Early Words"
905-385-7927 ext. 227
or 1-866-826-4327 ext. 227
www.ascy.ca/ascy_earlywords.html

Peel, Halton, Waterloo and
Wellington-Dufferin
905-855-2690
or 1-866-764-9606
TTY 905-855-4925

City of Toronto
Toronto Preschool Speech
and Language Services
416-338-8255
TTY 416-338-0025
www.tpssls.on.ca

Simcoe County and
Muskoka-Parry Sound
contact Children's
Rehabilitation Services
705-739-5696
or 1-800-675-1979

York Region, Durham, Haliburton,
Kawartha and Pine-Ridge
contact "Beyond Words"
1-888-703-5437
www.beyond-words.org
TTY 905-762-1350

Financial assistance provided by the Government of Canada

Kingston, Frontenac,
Lennox and Addington, Leeds,
Grenville and Lanark and
Hastings Prince Edward
contact "BabyTalk"
613-549-1232 ext. 145
or 1-800-267-7875 ext. 145
TTY 613-549-7692
or 1-866-299-1136
www.healthunit.on.ca

Ottawa, Renfrew County and
District, and Eastern Ontario
contact "FirstWords"
613-820-4922
TTY 613-820-7427 or
1-866-423-7447
www.pinecrest-queensway.com

Algoma, Cochrane,
Manitoulin-Sudbury and
Nipissing-Timiskaming
contact "Wordplay Jeux de Mots"
1-877-522-6655

Thunder Bay
Thunder Bay District Health Unit
807-625-5922
1-888-294-6630 ext. 5922
www.tbdhu.com

Kenora Rainy River
contact "North Words"
1-877-553-7122
www.northwords.com

For more information, contact:
INFOline 1-800-268-1154
Toronto 416-314-5518
TTY 1-800-387-5559
www.gov.on.ca/health

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en communiquant avec
le 1 800 268-1154
Toronto 416 314-5518
ATS : 1 800 387-5559
www.health.gov.on.ca

Ontario Infant Hearing Program



Can your baby hear?

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It is important to know if your baby can hear

The first months and years of a baby's life are very important for developing language. Undetected hearing loss is one of the causes of delayed language development. Delayed language development can lead to behavioural and emotional problems, and later to problems in school.

Every year in Ontario, approximately four in 1,000 babies are born deaf or hard of hearing. Through the Ontario Infant Hearing Program these babies can be found very early and given the help they need to develop language.

Most deaf and hard of hearing children whose hearing loss is identified early, and who receive the support they need, will have the same chance to develop language skills as hearing children.

Hearing screening is available for your baby

All newborn babies in Ontario can have their hearing screened, either in the hospital when they are born or in a community setting. There is no charge for the screening. It is a simple, reliable process that is quick, completely safe and comfortable for your baby.

The technology used to screen your baby's hearing involves placing a small earphone in the baby's ear. Soft sounds are played through the earphone and the ear's response is measured and recorded. Your baby will probably sleep comfortably through the whole experience, and you will get the results right away.



Making healthcare work for you.



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Ages and Stages

The *ages and stages* listed below show some of the milestones that mark the progress of young children as they learn to communicate and gain speech and language skills.

If at any time you think your child is not meeting these milestones, don't hesitate to contact your local Preschool Speech and Language Program.

If you suspect that your child might have hearing loss, contact your nearest Infant Hearing Program listed on the back of this brochure.



Birth to 3 months

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

3 to 6 months

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

6 to 9 months

- responds to hearing own name
- understands “No”
- looks at some common objects or family members when named
- babbles sounds in a series – *bababa, dadada, mamama*

What you can do

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

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 delight in the sounds you hear
- tell your baby what you are doing when you feed, bath, or dress him/her

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 and nursery rhymes

9 to 12 months

- understands simple requests – “Give it to mommy”, “Don't touch”
- understands simple questions – “Where's the 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*

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 (jibberish)
- uses 10 or more words
- uses common expressions – *oh no, all gone*

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

- 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 everything 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

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

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.”)