

Hearing test needed

☐ **Your baby needs more hearing testing in:**

- ☐ right ear ☐ left ear ☐ both ears

This does not mean your baby has hearing loss. It means further testing is needed to understand how they hear.

☐ **Your baby was born with health conditions or risk factors that can affect hearing.**



What hearing test does my baby need?

Your baby needs a special hearing test called a diagnostic Auditory Brainstem Response test. The test is safe, painless and free. It checks how your baby's hearing nerve and brain respond to sound. This test is done by an audiologist at a public health audiology clinic. You will be contacted to book this appointment.

Why is the test important?

The test is the best way to understand how your baby hears. Most babies have typical hearing, but some babies have hearing loss. Finding hearing loss early helps babies get support sooner.

What happens at the appointment?

The test is done while your baby sleeps. The appointment can take up to three hours. This gives time for your baby to fall asleep and for the test to be completed. During the test:

- You can sit and hold your baby.
- Small sensors are placed on your baby's forehead and behind each ear.
- Soft ear tips play quiet sounds.
- The sensors record how the hearing nerve responds.

Where can I get more information?

To learn more about newborn hearing screening visit: primarycarealberta.ca/newbornhearingscreening

When should my baby have the test?

The test works best when your baby is between four and eight weeks old. Babies this age sleep more, and this helps the test go smoothly. As babies get older, they are more alert. This can make the test take longer or mean that more than one visit is needed.

How can I prepare my baby?

Try to bring your baby awake to the appointment. It's best if your baby falls asleep in the testing room after the sensors have been put on.

To help your baby sleep during the test:

- Keep your baby awake for at least one hour before the test.
- Try not to feed your baby for about one and a half hours before the appointment. You can feed your baby when the test starts to help them fall asleep.
- Bring any items that may help your baby fall asleep and keep you comfortable.

What happens after the test?

The audiologist will explain the results and talk about next steps.

Scan the QR code for a short video that can help you prepare for your baby's appointment.

