



## Hearing Screener's Guide

### How to respond to frequently asked questions

**Q: "Why are you testing my baby for hearing loss?"**

A: It is best to find out if there is a hearing loss in your child as early as possible. It is important to identify any hearing loss before 6 months of age in order to prevent delays with speech and language development.

**Q: "What does it mean if my baby **PASSED** the hearing screening?"**

A: Your baby has passed the hearing screening at this time. Here is a list of developmental milestones for speech, language, and hearing. If there is a family history of childhood hearing loss, or if at any time you have concerns about speech, language, or hearing, be sure to discuss these with your pediatrician or an audiologist. (Do not say that hearing is "normal". Remember, this is only a screening.

**Q: "Does this **REFER** mean my baby has a hearing loss?"**

A: This test is just a screening. I can't interpret results from this test today. There are other reasons your baby may not have passed. Hearing loss is certainly one reason but there may also be fluid, vernix, or debris preventing the baby from hearing as he/she should. This needs to be re-checked and/or evaluated by an audiologist. (Never give a diagnosis.)

**Q: "What is the Audiologist going to do?"**

A: He/She will perform a full diagnostic evaluation. Testing will be done to determine what level of sound the baby is hearing in each ear. Speech sounds are made up of a range of tones. Testing will help determine the softest sounds that produce a response for low, middle, and high pitched sounds. Before 2 months of age, testing can usually be done while the baby is sleeping naturally.

**Q: "But I **KNOW** my baby can hear. Why do I need to go to an Audiologist?"**

A: Remember, there are varying degrees of hearing loss, so a child with hearing loss can startle, or respond to other sounds, but may still have a hearing loss that would cause delays in speech and language. *Making loud noises is not an accurate way to test hearing.* Diagnostic testing by an Audiologist will determine if hearing loss is present for any of the different pitches of sound.

**Q: "What if my baby does have hearing loss?"**

A: There are many different types and degrees of hearing loss. The Audiologist can go over this information with you and talk about options if there is hearing loss. Much can be done to enhance your baby's language learning and communication development if hearing loss is identified early.

*Because babies can't tell us if they can't hear*