



Hearing Screening Myths	
Misconception	Clinical Fact
Parents can tell if their child has a hearing loss by the time their child is 2 - 3 months old.	Before Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS), most children were not found to have a hearing loss until 2 - 3 years of age. Children with milder hearing loss weren't found until 4 years of age.
Parents can test a child's hearing loss by clapping their hands or banging pots near the child.	Some babies with hearing loss can still startle or respond to some sounds, but may not be able to hear all the sounds important for speech. Hearing testing is needed to ensure baby is hearing all sounds of speech.
Hearing loss does not occur very often, so newborn hearing screening is not necessary.	Hearing loss affects about 1 - 3 per 1000 births, and is the most common congenital findings.
There is no rush to identify hearing loss.	Children identified with hearing loss after 6 months of age are more likely to have speech and language delays. Children identified before this time, can avoid these delays through evidence-based early intervention.
Children younger than 12 months cannot be fitted with hearing aids.	Children as young as 1 month of age can now be fit with and benefit from hearing aids.
Using hearing loss risk factor assessments will identify all children with hearing loss.	As many as 50% of infants born with hearing loss have no known risk factors.
Babies need to be sedated to complete ABR testing.	Babies younger than 3 months can typically be tested without need for sedation.
Fluid prevents completion of diagnostic ABR evaluation.	Underlying sensory loss can and should be ruled out as soon as possible through use of bone conduction ABR stimuli.
Abnormal OAE's along with a flat tympanogram (normal volume) confirms a conductive hearing loss.	Diagnostic ABR including bone conduction testing is needed in combination with OAE's and tympanograms for a complete diagnosis of type and degree of hearing loss in each ear.

Joint Commission on Infant Hearing <http://www.jcih.org/>

CDC Hearing Loss in Children <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html>

AAP <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/120/4/898.full>