

FAQs on Newborn Hearing screening



Department of Prevention of Communication Disorders (POCD)



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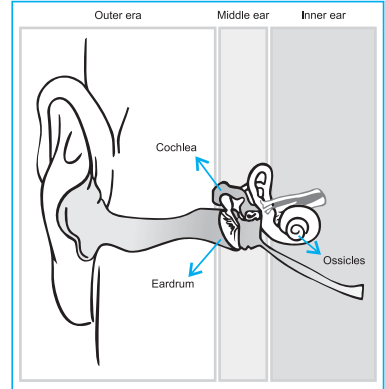
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1. What are different parts of the ear?

The human ear is composed of three major sections: the outer, middle and inner ear. Each part has a specific function in the hearing process

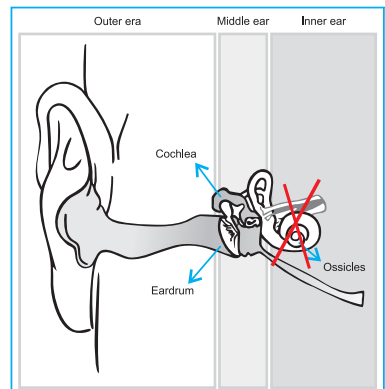
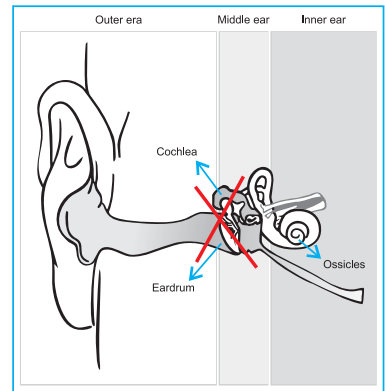
- Outer ear: consists of Pinna.
- Middle ear: consists of ear drum and tiny bones suspended in air.
- Inner ear: consists of snail-shaped cochlea, 3 canals and the hearing nerve.



2. What are the different types of hearing loss?

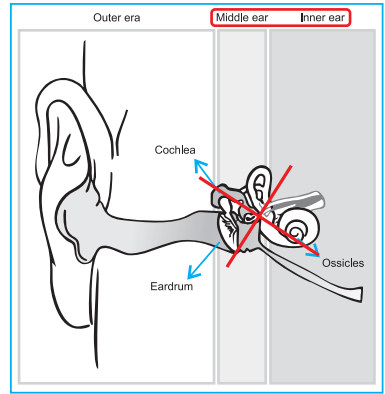
There are basically two types of hearing loss.

- Conductive hearing loss - A conductive loss refers to a decrease in sound caused by a problem in the outer or middle ear. Possible causes of a conductive loss may be: wax in the ear canal, a perforation in the eardrum, or fluid in the middle ear. This type of loss is usually treatable with either medical or surgical intervention.
- Sensorineural hearing loss - A sensorineural loss refers to a problem located in the inner ear or along the nerve pathway between the inner ear and the brain. This type of loss may be caused by aging, infection or other disease, noise exposure, or it may be related to a genetic disorder.



Such a loss is usually permanent and not treatable by medical or surgical intervention.

- Mixed hearing loss - A mixed loss refers to a conductive loss and a sensorineural loss occurring at the same time.



3. What causes hearing loss in newborn babies?

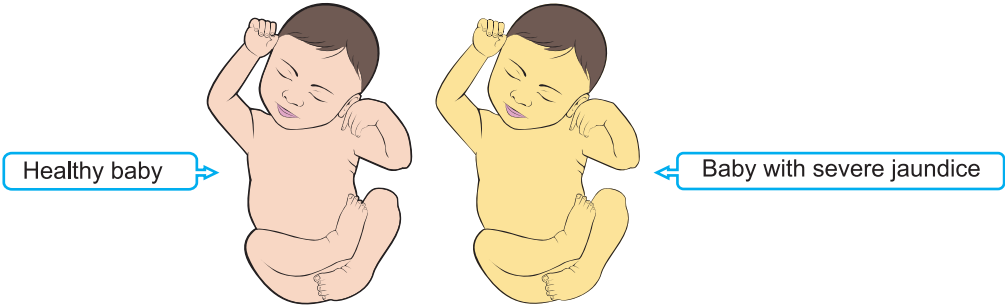
- A. Hearing loss can be present at birth, or it may develop later in life. Some causes for the hearing loss in newborn are:
- Family history of deafness



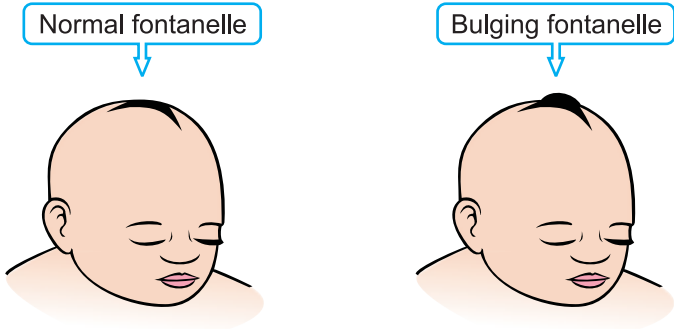
- Fever with rashes in the mother during early pregnancy



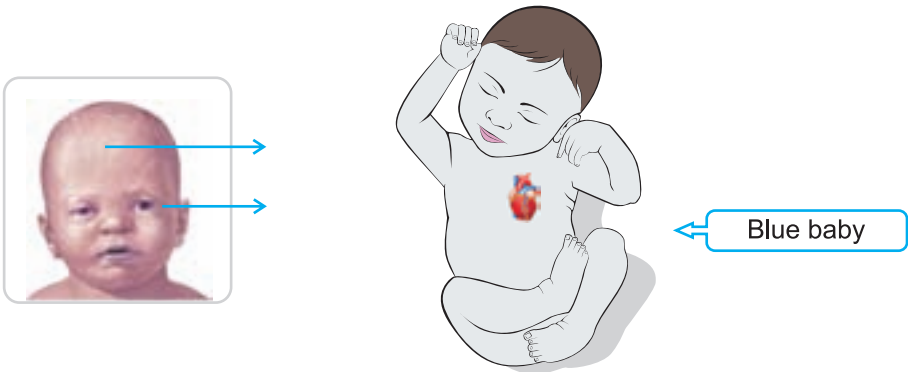
- Severe jaundice following birth (brain fever)



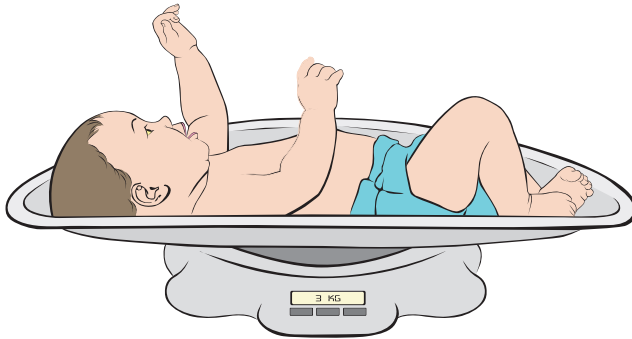
- Meningitis or other severe illness following birth



- Lack of oxygen at time of birth



- Low birth weight of the baby



- Use of medications during pregnancy that can harm hearing of the baby
- Pre-mature delivery
- Delayed birth cry
- Instrumental delivery
- Ear infections

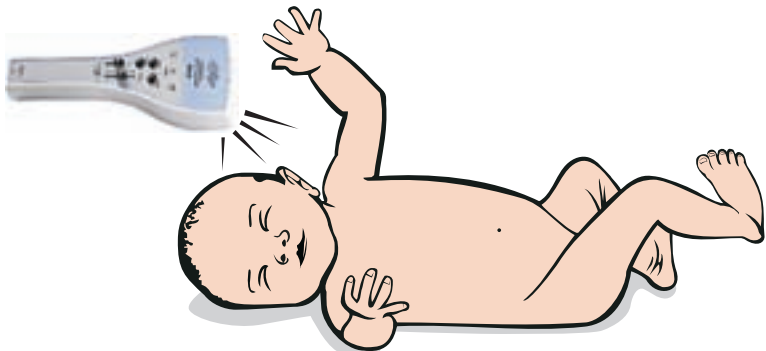


However, hearing loss can occur even without any of the above mentioned causes.

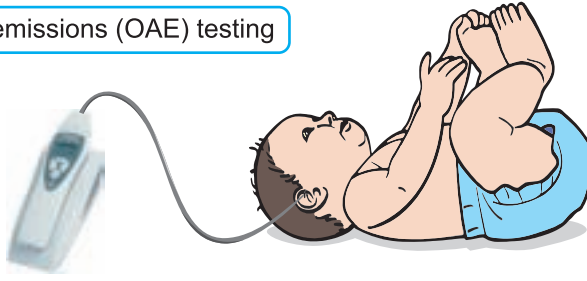
4. How my baby's hearing screening is done?

Hearing screening is done using three protocols namely high risk register, oto-acoustic emissions (OAE) and behavioural observation audiometry.

Behavioural Observation Audiometry



Oto Acoustic emissions (OAE) testing

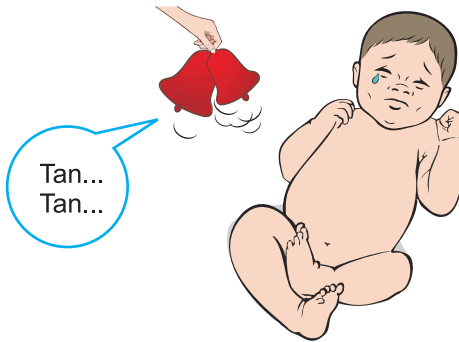


5. How can I know if my baby has normal hearing?

A. A baby with normal hearing should be able to do the following :

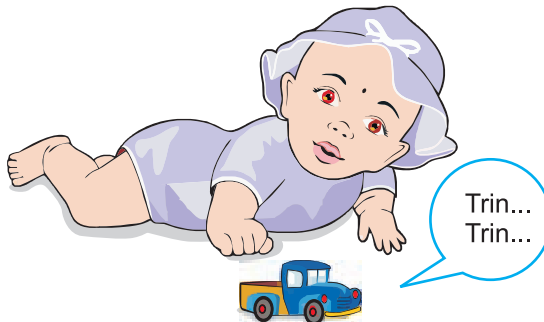
0-3 months:

- Respond to very loud sounds such as a bang. The child may blink, wake up or start crying in response to such loud sounds.



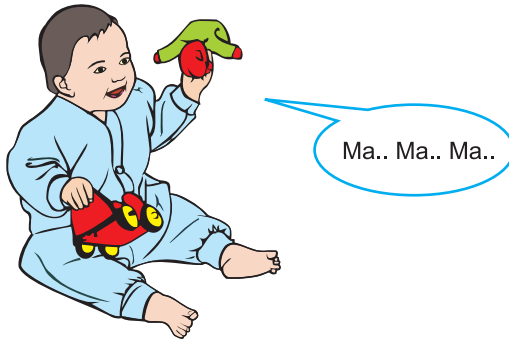
3-6 months:

- The child should be able recognise the mother's voice and turn his/her head towards her voice.
- The child should be showing interest in new sounds.



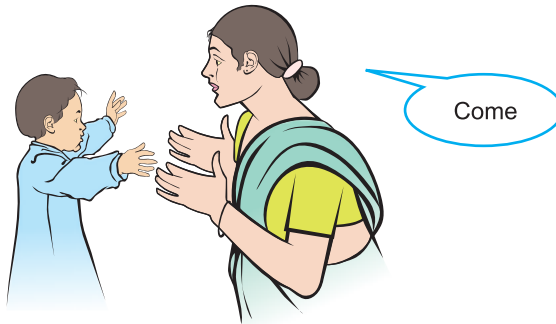
6-9 months:

- The child should start making babbling sounds by this age.
- The child will show interest in toys.



9-12 months:

- The child will start responding to his/her name. Come...She/he will understand small words such as 'come', 'bye' etc.



12-18 months:

- Starts imitating small words like mama, papa.....
- Tries to imitate words that he/she hears



18-24 months:

- Respond to instructions like: 'touch your nose', 'show your tummy' etc.
- Will start speaking small 2-3 word sentences

Show me your head



In case there is delay in achieving any of these milestones, bring the child for a Hearing test.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND INFORMATION

CONTACT

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