



## OSDH Newborn Hearing Screening Program

NewbornScreen@health.ok.gov or 1-800-766-2223

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# Newborn Hearing Screening

### Did You Know?

Babies can hear up to **1 MILLION WORDS** each month. Therefore, every month counts.

**Hearing Screenings matter!**

### Tip of the Month

The average AABR screening is about **5 minutes**.

However it can be completed in less than 1 minute. If a screening takes longer than 12-15 minutes, please stop the screening and troubleshoot. If the issue is still not resolved, contact **Natus Technical Support** 1-888-496-2887

- **What is newborn hearing screening?** An efficient and effective way to determine if a newborn can hear the sounds necessary for speech and language development.
- **Why screen?** Hearing loss is one of the most common birth defects. In the United States 1 in 300 children are born with hearing loss. The ability to hear sound is especially critical for brain development during a child's first two years of life. Any degree of hearing loss can have detrimental effects on a child's speech, language, emotional and social development as well as academic success.
- **How is hearing screened?** Automated AABR (auditory brainstem response) screening is the preferred method of screening for infants. This is because it determines if sound is picked up by the auditory nerve, the infant's smallest brainwave. OAE (Otoacoustic emissions) screening only tests to see if sound reaches the inner ear (cochlea). Because OAE screening does not test integrity of the auditory nerve, it cannot be determined for sure if the sound reached the brain.
- **When can screening be done?** Screening can be done within 5-6 hours after birth. However, an infant should not be screening immediately after having a bath. The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) recommends that infants have their hearing screened before 1 month of age, receive diagnosis by 3 months of age, and be placed in an early intervention program by 6 months of age
- **Oklahoma's goals:** Our state has adjusted the JCIH recommendations for screening, diagnosis, and early intervention to weeks instead of months — **THANK YOU for helping Oklahoma families!**

