



OSDH Newborn Hearing Screening Program

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

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Understanding Hearing Loss in Infants

Did You Know?

Infants can hear up to 1 MILLION words a month! Therefore...the earlier the screening the better!

Monthly Tips:

Baby Selection

To obtain the best hearing screening results, make sure you have a **quiet & still** baby:

- After a feeding
- During nap
- Swaddled with arms and legs inside blanket

- **About 1 in 300 children are born with hearing loss**, making hearing loss one of the most common birth defects in the United States.
- **92%** of children born with hearing loss have two parents who can both hear normally.
- **50%** of newborns who have hearing loss do not have any of the “traditional risk-factors” that are commonly associated with hearing loss.
- **50-60%** of hearing loss in children is related to genetics.
- **Only 25%** of hearing loss is due to the environment.
- About **50%** of children with cranio-facial anomalies have hearing loss.
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is the leading environmental cause of hearing loss in newborns. The **90%** newborns who have the asymptomatic version of CMV are at the greatest risk of developing-onset hearing loss.
- **90% of brain development occurs during the first 2 years of life. Therefore, initial hospital screenings are VITAL to a child’s communication and life success.**

