

# Screening Programmes

## Newborn Hearing

### Reaction to sounds checklist

This list and the Making Sounds Checklist give pointers about what to look for as your baby grows to check if he/she can hear. Babies differ widely in what they can do at any given age. The ages presented here are an approximate guide only.

#### Shortly after birth - a baby:

Is startled by a sudden loud noise such as a hand clap or a door slamming. Blinks or opens eyes widely to such sounds or stops sucking or starts to cry.

#### 1 month - a baby:

Starts to notice sudden prolonged sounds like the noise of a vacuum cleaner and may turn towards the noise. Pauses and listens to the noises when they begin.

#### 4 months - a baby:

Quietens or smiles to the sounds of familiar voice even when unable to see speaker and turns eyes or head towards voice. Shows excitement at sounds (e.g. voices, footsteps etc).

#### 7 months - a baby:

Turns immediately to familiar voice across the room or to very quiet noises made on each side (if not too occupied with other things).

#### 9 months - a baby:

Listens attentively to familiar everyday sounds and searches for very quiet sounds made out of sight.

#### 12 months - a baby:

Shows some response to own name. May also respond to expressions like 'no' and 'bye bye' even when any accompanying gesture cannot be seen.

**If at any stage in the baby or child's development you think he/she may have difficulties hearing, contact your health visitor or family doctor.**

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Adapted from: The 'Can Your Baby Hear You' form, B. McCormick, 1982,  
Children's Hearing Assessment Centre, Nottingham, UK.