Some Things a Baby with Normal Hearing Should Be Able to Do:

Birth to 3 Months of Age
• Blinks or jumps when there is a sudden, loud sound
• Quiets or smiles when spoken to
• Makes sounds like “ohh,” “ahh”

3 to 6 Months of Age
• Looks for sounds with eyes
• Starts babbling (“baba,” “mama,” “gaga”)
• Uses many sounds, squeals and chuckles

6 to 9 Months of Age
• Turns head toward loud sounds
• Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
• Babbles, for example “baba,” “mama,” “gaga”

9 to 12 Months of Age
• Repeats simple words and sounds you make
• Correctly uses “mama” or “dada”
• Responds to singing or music
• Points to favorite toys and objects when asked

If you have questions about your baby’s hearing or this list, talk with your baby’s health professional.

Where Else Can I Get Information?
• Visit www.babyhearing.org
Can Your Baby Hear?

Why should my baby’s hearing be tested?

• Most babies can hear well at birth, but few do not.
• We test all babies to find the ones who may not be able to hear. Testing is the only way to know if your baby has hearing loss.
• It is important to find hearing loss as soon as possible. Babies whose hearing loss is not found early will have a hard time learning.
• If we find hearing loss early, there are many ways we can help your baby.

Make sure your baby’s hearing is tested before you leave the hospital.

What should I know about the test?

• The test is safe and painless and can be done in about 10 minutes.
• Most babies sleep through the test.
• You will get the test results before you leave the hospital.
• Be sure to tell the hospital the name of your baby’s health professional or clinic so they can send them the results.

Why do some babies need another hearing test?

• Some babies may need another test because:
  - fluid in the ear
  - noise in the testing room
  - baby was moving a lot
  - baby has hearing loss
• Most babies who need another test have normal hearing. Some will have hearing loss.
• If your baby does not pass the hearing test, make sure he or she is tested again as soon as possible.

Can a Newborn Baby Pass the Hearing Test and Still Have Hearing Loss?

• Yes, some babies hear well enough to pass the first test, but lose their hearing later because of:
  - some illnesses
  - some medicines
  - some injuries
  - a family history of hearing loss
• Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows.
• Use the list on the back cover as a guide.