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# What Should I Do If My Baby Fails The Test?

Discuss the test results with your baby's doctor. The doctor will probably refer your baby to a pediatric audiologist for further testing.

## The First Step: Follow Up Testing

In many cases, the first step is a rescreen using techniques similar to those used in the hospital. In some hospitals and clinics, a diagnostic Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test will be done immediately.

When we hear sounds, we recognize different pitches or tones. A piano keyboard has a range of tones from low to high. Speech sounds we hear are also made up of a range of tones. The last time your hearing was tested, you probably listened for soft tones that ranged from low to high pitch. A diagnostic ABR is a test that will help determine how much hearing loss is present for different pitches of sound.

- The goal of this test is to find the softest sounds that produce a response for low, middle, and high pitched sounds.
- If your baby is tested before 2 months of age, testing usually can be done while the baby is sleeping naturally.
- If your baby is older or very active, a liquid medicine may be used to make your baby sleepy. This will ensure that the baby's movements do not interfere with the test.
- If the baby passes the ABR test, no further testing is needed. However, babies should continue to be watched for hearing loss that occurs after the newborn period

## The Second Step: Early Intervention

If your baby has a hearing loss, these professionals will be eager to provide support to your family. Their main goal will be to work together to limit the effects of the hearing loss on your baby's development. It is essential that appropriate services begin as soon as a diagnosis of hearing loss is made. The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that services should begin before 6 months of age if at all possible.

- Services Coordinator - this professional works with early intervention programs. He or she works closely with the family to identify needs and to ensure that providers work together and coordinate their efforts to make intervention manageable for the family
- Infant/Family Specialist - a teacher who specializes in working with infants who have hearing loss and their families
- Pediatric Audiologist - a professional who specializes in testing the hearing of infants and children and recommends hearing instruments
- Ear, Nose and Throat Physician - a doctor who specializes in problems of the ear, nose and throat
- Pediatrician or Family Practitioner - a doctor who provides primary health care for infants and children.