

# Your Baby Needs a Diagnostic Hearing Test



Your baby has an appointment for a diagnostic hearing test:

Your Baby's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Audiologist's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Audiologist's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Audiologist's Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Appointment Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Appointment Time \_\_\_\_\_

Please call the audiologist – a hearing care specialist – if you need to reschedule. Your baby should have this test by the time they are *3 months* of age.

## Next Steps

- Bring your baby to the appointment listed above.
- During the hearing test, an audiologist will use tools to test your baby's hearing. This test will not hurt your baby.
- The sooner hearing loss is identified, the sooner your baby can receive services to learn communication skills such as speech and language.

## Why Is Communication Important?

- It is best that your baby be able to communicate as soon as possible. This test will identify the type of hearing loss your child has and the level of hearing loss.
- If your baby has hearing loss, the diagnostic test will help you and your baby's audiologist or health care provider choose a way for your baby to communicate. The best way for your baby to communicate is a method that makes the most sense for your baby and your family. The best choice may be for your child to communicate through sign language, speech, or both.
- Parents and caregivers are the most important people in helping a baby learn to communicate.
- Communication should be two-way: from you to your baby and from your baby to you.
- Your baby begins to develop language skills at birth. Language is the key to all learning, and hearing is very important for learning.

## What Is Hearing Loss?

- Hearing loss is any condition that affects how your baby recognizes sound. It can be:
  - > Permanent or temporary
  - > Mild, moderate, severe, or profound
- If diagnostic testing confirms that your baby has hearing loss, it will also tell your baby's health care provider or audiologist what type and the level of hearing loss.



For more information: [health.ny.gov/EHDI](https://health.ny.gov/EHDI)



Department  
of Health