

Q What kind of detailed tests are done at precision hearing testing institutions?

A More detailed tests than the initial screening will be performed, such as an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test and observations of the baby's reactions to sounds. Depending on the baby's age, a small amount of sedative may be given during the ABR test, but it has no adverse effects on the baby's health.

Speech and Hearing Development Chart

0 to 3 Months

- Startles when there is a sudden loud noise
- Wakes up or starts crying when someone speaks or makes a sound
- Notifies their mother's voice and becomes quiet when talked to

3 to 6 Months

- Looks toward or slowly searches for sounds that interest them
- Appears to be attentively listening to sounds
- Wakes up immediately when they hear a sound

6 to 12 Months

- Quickly notices even the quietest sounds and looks in the direction of the source
- Understands words such as "no" and "bye-bye"

12 Months and Older

- Starts to imitate words
- Starts to say words such as "mama" and "dada"



In order to support follow up on babies and their guardians after the newborn hearing screening, Shizuoka Prefecture has developed the Newborn Hearing Screening Management Support System.

The system uses a Hearing ID (QR code) to register and manage information. No personal information is collected. The QR code sticker is affixed under the newborn hearing screening record column of their maternal and child health handbook (MCH).



Details of the Newborn Hearing Screening Management Support System, as well as information about hearing loss and testing, can be found on the Infant Hearing Support Center website.



Official Site

Precision Hearing Testing Institutions in Shizuoka Prefecture

○Department of Otolaryngology, Numazu City Hospital

550 Harunoki, Higashishijii, Numazu City 055-924-5100

○Department of Otolaryngology, Shizuoka General Hospital

4-27-1 Kitaando, Aoi Ward, Shizuoka City 054-247-6111

○Department of Otolaryngology, Seirei Hamamatsu General Hospital

2-12-12 Sumiyoshi, Chuo Ward, Hamamatsu City 053-474-2222

○Department of Otolaryngology, Hamamatsu University Hospital

1-20-1 Handayama, Chuo Ward, Hamamatsu City 053-435-2111

A Test to Check Your Newborn's Hearing Development

All About the Newborn Hearing Screening



Shizuoka Prefecture Infant Hearing Support Center

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Babies can hear sounds even while they are still in the womb.

After birth, they continue to grow and develop by listening to their mother's voice, songs, and the various sounds of toys and their environment.

It is estimated that 1 to 2 out of every 1,000 babies are born with hearing loss in both ears. If people around the baby do not notice the hearing loss, the baby may miss out on important experiences that are essential for learning language.

You cannot tell whether a baby can hear just by looking at them. That's why it is so important for families to notice the signs of hearing difficulty early.



Newborn Hearing Screening Test FAQ



Q Is it necessary for my baby to undergo a screening test?

A Hearing is important for language development. Even if a baby is born with hearing loss, appropriate support can help promote healthy language development. Screening tests can be an opportunity to detect hearing loss early. However, waiting for a definitive diagnosis can sometimes cause anxiety for parents. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to consult with your local public health center or an infant hearing support center. If your baby is unable to undergo the screening at your local municipal public health center, due to circumstances such as leaving your current prefecture of residence to return to your hometown for childbirth, please consult with your public health center in advance.

Q Does the screening cost anything?

A In Shizuoka Prefecture, the cost of the screening is publicly subsidized. You must make sure to submit the "Newborn Hearing Screening Voucher" or "新生児聴覚スクリーニング検査受診票 (Shinseiji chōkaku sukurīngu kensa jushinhō)" which is issued by your local municipal public health center, to the medical facility where you give birth."

Q The results of the screening said "pass" or "パス (pasu)", what does this mean?

A This means that the hearing in that ear is normal at the time of the test. However, even if your baby has normal hearing at birth, they may develop hearing loss during development due to otitis media, mumps, meningitis, etc. In rare cases, hearing loss may also be progressive. Please continue to monitor your child's hearing development carefully, referring to your maternal and child health handbook (MCH) and other resources.

Q The results of the screening said "refer" or "要精査 (yōseisa)". What does this mean, and what should I do next?

A Receiving a referral for further examination does not necessarily mean that your baby has hearing loss. The results may be inaccurate due to movement during the examination or due to neonatal earwax (vernix caseosa). To confirm the results, take a referral letter from your obstetrician and have your baby examined at a precision hearing testing institution.

The Newborn Hearing Screening is a test designed to detect congenital hearing loss as early as possible.

It is usually conducted after the baby is born and before they are discharged from the hospital, while the baby is fast asleep—typically after breastfeeding.

The screening takes about 10 minutes, is completely painless, and usually does not require medication.

