

Hearing Checklist

It is important to check your baby's hearing as he or she grows.

The checklist below (and in your personal child health record) can help you look for and listen to your baby's responses.

Shortly after birth	Your baby is startled by a sudden loud noise such as a hand clap or a door slamming. They blink or open their eyes widely to these sounds or stop sucking or start to cry.
One month	Your baby starts to notice sudden prolonged sounds, such as the noise of a vacuum cleaner, and may turn towards the noise. They pause and listen to the noises when they begin.
Four months	Your baby goes quiet or smiles to the sound of a familiar voice, even when they cannot see who is speaking, and turns their eyes or head towards the voice. They show excitement at sounds, for example voices or footsteps.
Seven months	Your baby turns immediately to a familiar voice across the room or to very quiet noises made on each side of them (if they are not too occupied with other things).
Nine months	Your baby listens carefully to familiar everyday sounds and searches for very quiet sounds made out of sight.
12 months	Your baby shows some response to his or her name. They may also respond to expressions like 'no' and 'bye-bye', even when they cannot see the gesture that goes with it.

Based on original by Professor Barry McCormick OBE and reproduced with permission.

Tell your health visitor or family doctor if you have any worries about your baby's hearing. They can arrange for your baby's hearing to be tested.