

Can Your Baby Hear?

Your child's most important learning will take place between birth and 4 years of age.

In the first four years of life, the child learns how to communicate — first to understand what people say, and then to start talking himself. To do this, **your baby must have usable hearing.**

You can do some simple tests to find out if your baby has normal hearing, provided you know what to look for. The information here is a basic guide. As the weeks and months go by, check to see if your baby can do most of the things listed. **If he can't, don't wait.** He may have a hearing problem.

If you suspect that your baby has a hearing problem, **tell your doctor immediately.** If the doctor cannot accurately test your child contact your local hearing and speech clinic. Your baby's hearing can be tested at any age. It is vital that a child with impaired hearing receive proper medical help and whatever special training is needed, as early as possible.

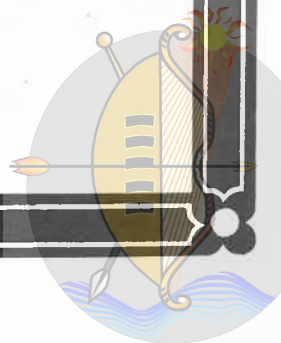
CHECKLIST

Is startled by loud sounds. Is soothed by mother's voice	birth to 3 months
Turns eyes and head to search for location of sound. Responds to mother's voice. Imitates his own noises — oohs, ba-ba's etc. Enjoys rattles and other sound making toys.	3 to 6 months
Responds to his own name, telephone ringing, and someone's voice, even when not loud.	6 to 10 months
Understands "no", "bye-bye", and other common words.	
Can point to or look at familiar objects or people when asked to do so.	10 to 15 months
Imitates simple words and sounds. Follows simple spoken directions. First words are well on their way. By 18 months there should be many more words.	15 to 18 months

HEARING ALERT!

A programme of the Audiology & Speech and Hearing Centre
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