

Screening Programmes

Newborn Hearing

Making sounds checklist

Introduction

This list and the Reaction to Sounds Checklist give pointers about what to look for as your baby grows to check if he/she can hear. Babies do differ in what they can do at any given age. The ages presented here are approximate only.

Checklist

4 months - a baby:

Makes soft sounds when awake. Gurgles and coos.

6 months - a baby:

Makes laughter-like sounds. Starts to make sing-song vowel sounds (eg: a-a, muh, goo, der, aroo, adah).

9 months - a baby:

Makes sounds to communicate in friendliness or annoyance. Babbles (e.g. 'dada da', 'ma ma ma', 'ba ba ba'). Shows pleasure in babbling loudly and tunefully. Starts to imitate other sounds like coughing or smacking lips.

12 months - a baby:

Babbles loudly, often in a conversational-type rhythm. May start to use one or two recognisable words.

15 months - a baby:

Makes lots of speech-like sounds. Uses 2-6 recognisable words meaningfully (eg: 'teddy' when seeing or wanting the teddy bear).

18 months - a baby:

Makes speech-like sounds with conversational-type rhythm when playing. Uses 6-20 recognisable words. Tries to join in nursery rhymes and songs.

24 months - a child:

Uses 50 or more recognisable words appropriately. Puts 2 or more words together to make simple sentences (for example: more milk). Joins in nursery rhymes and songs. Talks to self during play (may be incomprehensible to others).

30 months - a child:

Uses 200 or more recognisable words. Uses pronouns (e.g. I, me, you). Uses sentences but many will lack adult structure. Talks intelligibly to self during play. Asks questions. Says a few nursery rhymes.

36 months - a child:

Has a large vocabulary intelligible to everyone.

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