

World Hearing Day



Did you know that March 3rd is World Hearing Day?

World Hearing Day is an annual global advocacy event for raising awareness regarding hearing loss, promoting ear and hearing care, and calling for action to address hearing loss and related issues.

Ear and hearing care starts right when an infant is born. In Washington state infants receive a hearing screen before leaving the hospital. A hearing screening is a test to help see if your infant may have hearing loss. There are several types of tests used for a hearing screen, these may include:

- Automated Auditory Brainstem Response: This test measures how well your infant's hearing nerve responded to sound.
- Evoked Otoacoustic Emissions: This measures how well the inner ear works.
- Or both may be done.

If your infant does not pass their hearing screen, they will typically need to follow-up with their primary care provider who will often refer them to a specialist, like an audiologist, who can do a full hearing test (audiology evaluation).

Also, even if your infant passed their hearing screen, some infants may be more at risk for hearing loss than others. There are various reasons why an infant may be at a higher risk for hearing loss, one of which can include having an extended Neonatal Intensive Care Unit stay, along with other factors. If it was determined that your infant has an increased risk for hearing loss, they will need to see an audiologist to have an evaluation completed before turning 9 months (even if they passed their initial hearing screen).

Why are hearing screenings and tests so important?

Since infants are unable to tell us if they can hear or not, these screening and tests can help identify if an infant has a hearing problem. Also, by identifying a hearing problem early, your infant's care team can ensure your infant has the services, supports and medical care they need to hopefully help them develop normal language skills in the future

What about older children and youth?

If you feel that your child or youth may have hearing problems, it is important that you follow-up with their primary care provider. They may do testing in the clinic and/or they may refer your child/youth to an audiologist to have a full hearing test done. Additionally, your child may be referred to an otolaryngologist (ear nose and throat specialist) for an evaluation to see if your child may need ear tubes. It is also important for infants to be evaluated through their local Early Support for Infants & Toddlers program and for children (over 3 years) and youth to be evaluated through their local school district.

Resources

- [World Hearing Day 2025 - World Hearing Day](#)
- [About Newborn Hearing Screening - Seattle Children's](#)
- [Hearing loss in children: Screening and evaluation - UpToDate](#)
- [Patient and Family Education – Audiology Clinic](#)
- [World Hearing Day 2025](#)
- [Newborn Hearing Screening | Parent Guides to Hearing Loss | CDC](#)
- [CDC Hearing Loss](#)
- [Over the Counter Hearing Aids for People 18 Years and Older](#)

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