Manitoba 🐃

"Parents are important partners. They have the greatest impact upon their young child and their active participation is crucial." - Mark Ross (1975)

Universal Newborn

HEARING SCREENING

Your baby **passed** the hearing screening

☐ **No follow up testing is needed**

☐ **Follow up testing is needed. Your baby has a risk factor for hearing loss.**

Today your baby passed their newborn hearing screen

Sometimes a baby will hear well at birth but still develop hearing loss.

The risk of developing hearing loss early in life is higher if you or the child's brother or sister has a permanent childhood hearing loss, if the child spent time in the special care nursery, or if your child develops certain illnesses. If your child has risk factors they will be referred to an audiologist for follow-up testing at the right ages so that their hearing is checked.

If you are concerned that your child is not hearing well, ask your health care provider to refer you to an Audiologist. An Audiologist is a health care professional who is specially trained to identify and manage hearing loss.

Hearing loss can affect speech and language development

Most babies are born able to hear their parents' voice and the sounds of the world around them. The first year of life is important for developing speech and language. If your baby can not hear well, he or she will have problems understanding and learning to talk, which can lead to behaviour problems, emotional problems and difficulties in school.

When a hearing loss is found early, treatments (e.g.: hearing aids) and supports (e.g.: speech language pathology services, sign language education) can be put in place right away. Most children with hearing loss will have the same chance to develop language skills as other children their age who don't have hearing loss.

Speech, Language and Hearing Milestones

Here are some signs you can watch for to see if your child is hearing normally. If your child is not responding to the signs listed below, for a child his or her age, you should let your child's health care provider or audiologist know.

Birth to 3 months, does the child:

- make cooing sounds
- have different cries for different needs
- smile at you
- startle to loud sounds
- soothe/calm to a familiar voice

4 to 6 months, does the child:

- babble and make different sounds
- make sounds back when you talk
- enjoy games like peek-a-boo
- turn his/her eyes toward a sound source
- respond to music or toys that make noise

7 to 12 months, does the child:

- wave hi/bye
- respond to his/her name
- let you know what he/she wants using sounds, and/or actions like pointing
- begin to follow simple directions (e.g., Where is your nose?)
- localize correctly to sound by turning his/her head toward the sound
- pay attention when spoken to

12 to 18 months, does the child:

- use common words and start to put words together
- enjoy listening to storybooks
- point to body parts or pictures in a book when asked
- look at your face when talking to you

18 to 24 months, does the child:

- understand more words than he/she can say
- say two words together (e.g., More juice)
- ask simple questions (e.g., What's that?)
- take turns in a conversation

2 to 3 years, does the child:

- use sentences of three or more words most of the time
- understand different concepts (e.g., in-on; up-down)
- follow two-part directions (e.g., take the book and put it on the table)
- answer simple questions (e.g., Where is the car?)
- participate in short conversations

3 to 4 years, does the child:

- tell a short story or talk about daily activities
- talk in sentences with adult-like grammar
- generally speak clearly so people understand
- hear you when you call from another room
- listen to TV at the same volume as others
- answer a variety of questions

4 to 5 years, does the child:

- pronounce most speech sounds correctly
- participate in and understand conversations even in the presence of background noise
- recognize familiar signs (e.g., stop sign)
- make up rhymes
- hear and understand most of what is said at home and school
- listen to and retell a story and ask and answer questions about a story

Things you can do that babies like:

- Get down to their level so they can see your face. This tells them you are interested in what they are doing and saying. It makes it easier for them to connect and interact with you.

- Repeat the sounds they make. Babies enjoy making noises, and they like it when you repeat their noises over and over.

- Sing and laugh, especially when you are feeding, bathing and changing their diapers. Remember to talk to your baby all through the day about things you do and see – "Mommy's putting on her coat." "That's a big truck."

- Tell them the names of things they are looking at and playing with. Babies like exploring and learning about new things. They also like hearing what these things are called.

Things you can do that toddlers (ages 1 to 3) like:

- Let them touch and hold books while you point to pages and name the pictures.

- Use real words instead of "baby talk" – " give me" instead of tata, "water" instead of wawa.

- Take time to listen to them – they want you to hear all their new sounds, words and ideas.

- Give them simple directions to follow – "Go find your red boots."

- Use lots of different words when you talk to them – opposite words like up/down, in/out; action words like "running," "splashing," and words that describe things like "happy," "big," "little," "clean," or "dirty."

- Encourage them to play with other children – at the library, in play groups and at the park.

"Parents are important partners. They have the greatest impact upon their young child and their active participation is crucial."

- Mark Ross (1975)

Where can I go for more information?

For more information on UNHS and on age-appropriate responses to language and sound, go to
www.gov.mb.ca/health/unhs

UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

Parents are Important Partners

Manitoba