

## Newborn Hearing Screening – Facts

- Hearing loss is one of the most frequent birth defect, occurring in approximately 4-6 newborns per 1000.
- All newborns should undergo hearing screening at 24-48 hours of birth or immediately before leaving the hospital.
- Hearing screening can be done bedside, in nursery or a quiet room with the baby resting quietly or sleeping.
- Hearing screenings are fast, safe, and painless and take about 5-10 minutes
- More than 95% newborns that are born deaf have normal hearing parents.
- The average age of identification of hearing loss in India are approximately 2-3 years and many children not being identified until 5-6 years of age.
- First failed hearing screening result does not necessarily mean that your baby has hearing loss. Babies can fail first hearing screening due to residual amniotic fluid or vernix in the ear canal. Most babies will pass second hearing screening, while those who does not pass should undergo detailed hearing evaluation by certified Audiologist by 3 months of age.
- If baby identified as deaf or hard of hearing, then he/she should begin with early intervention program by 6 months of age.
- Hearing is essential for learning to talk and the most critical period for acquiring spoken language is first 2 year of life, when the brain is developing and maturing.
- Undetected hearing loss can significantly impact speech, language, and cognitive development.