



## **Risk factors for progressive hearing loss**

Some babies may have hearing within normal limits at birth but a hearing loss develops over time.

### **This condition may be the result of:**

- spending 48 hours or more in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- having a condition (neurological disorder) that is associated with hearing loss (check with your health care provider)
- exposure to infection before birth
- head, face, or ears may be shaped or formed in a different way than usual
- infection around the brain and spinal cord caused by bacteria (bacterial meningitis)
- bad jaundice (hyperbilirubinemia) in babies that needed a special procedure (exchange transfusion)
- bad injury to the head (that needed medical care)
- ear infections with fluid that last a long time

*Courtesy of CDC*

If your infant has risk factors for a progressive hearing loss or if you have concerns about your child's responses to sound or speech development, you should contact your baby's doctor and an audiologist.

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