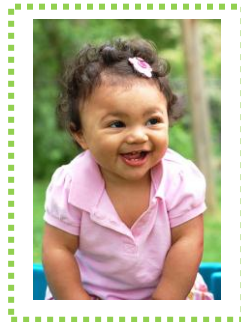




Hope! Dream! Achieve!

www.myparentlinks.com

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What is Aural Atresia?

What is Aural Atresia / Canal Stenosis

Aural Atresia is a condition where the ear canal has failed to form and there is no opening from the outside ear to the inner ear. In the case of canal stenosis, there is an opening, but it is extremely narrow and restrictive. In most cases, this congenital abnormality is present on one side only. It is usually found more often in males and the cochlea and hearing nerve is usually not affected. 95 % of the time, Aural Atresia is present with a second condition called MICROTIA, which takes several different forms. Repairing aural atresia requires a comprehensive surgical plan that also includes microtia repair.

Baha Implants

A Baha device is a bone anchored hearing device and can be used to correct the hearing loss. Baha stands for Bone Anchored Hearing Appliance. Surgically implanted Baha devices transmit sound by direct conduction through bone to the inner ear, bypassing the external auditory canal and middle ear.

A sound processor is attached to the implant. The implant vibrates the skull and inner ear, which stimulate the nerve fibers of the inner ear, allowing hearing while bypassing all the sources of the conductive hearing loss caused by the atresia.



To learn more about the Baha hearing - <http://products.cochlearamericas.com/baha>

**Parent Links
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Can My Baby Hear Me?

What you need to know about newborn hearing screenings.

By Erin Gifford

Rachel Epstein's second child, Alana, was born in February 2001 with no apparent health problems. An uncomplicated delivery, Rachel had no reason to suspect that anything was wrong with her daughter. However, a newborn hearing screening soon discovered the unimaginable—Alana was born profoundly deaf.

"My husband and I had no reason to believe that Alana was deaf. We both have normal hearing and so does our older daughter," says Epstein. "My pregnancy was normal and we knew of no hearing issues in our families." According to the American Academy of Audiology, most babies born with hearing loss are born otherwise healthy with no family history of hearing problems.

Each year, as many as three of every 1,000 babies born in the United States are born with hearing loss. Because your newborn can't tell you if he can't hear, it is important to have your baby's hearing tested before you leave the hospital after giving birth, or shortly thereafter at an outpatient facility if your hospital does not offer newborn hearing screening. This will give your baby the best chance to develop speech and language skills.

"Had the newborn screening program not been in place in Connecticut at the time Alana was born, we probably wouldn't have discovered the problem until she was 2 and at that age she would have missed the most important years for speech and language development. Today, Alana is a normal 2 ½ year old, testing at age level thanks to newborn hearing screening," says Epstein.

What Should I Do?

Right away, be alert to any signs of newborn hearing loss, such as failure to be calmed by the sound of your voice. "A new baby will also startle in response to a loud sound," says Dr. Alison Grimes, director of audiology at Providence Speech and Hearing Center in Orange, CA.

It's important for parents to be assertive. An audiological evaluation is not very costly and does not hurt the baby. Parents need to be more observant of their infant's hearing," says Grimes.

While newborn hearing tests have become common practice, not every state requires a hearing screening at birth. To date, at least 32 states have passed legislation requiring newborn hearing screening for all babies born in the state, according to the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management.

"Parents are often unaware that, while nearly all babies born in the United States undergo newborn screening tests for genetic birth defects, the number and quality of these tests vary from state to state," says Dr. Jennifer L. Howse, president of the March of Dimes. Because significant hearing impairment is one of the most common developmental abnormalities present at birth, the March of Dimes advises a hearing test for all newborns.

"If you live in a state without a program, discuss newborn hearing screening with your hospital as part of the birthing process. As more parents request the screening, hospitals will be forced to stand up and take notice," says Grimes.

How Will My Baby Be Screened For Hearing Loss?

The screening of newborns involves the use of non-invasive measures that include otoacoustic emissions (OAEs), in which soft clicking sounds are played in your baby's ears and the inner ear's response to sound is measured, and/or auditory brain response (ABR), which tests an infant's ability to hear soft sounds through miniature earphones. Both tests are painless and can be done while your baby is resting quietly.

New technology developed by Natus Medical Inc. in San Carlos, CA, now enables both ears to be screened simultaneously. An ABR test is a hearing screening that takes just four to seven minutes to complete and has been found to demonstrate the highest clinically proven accuracy.

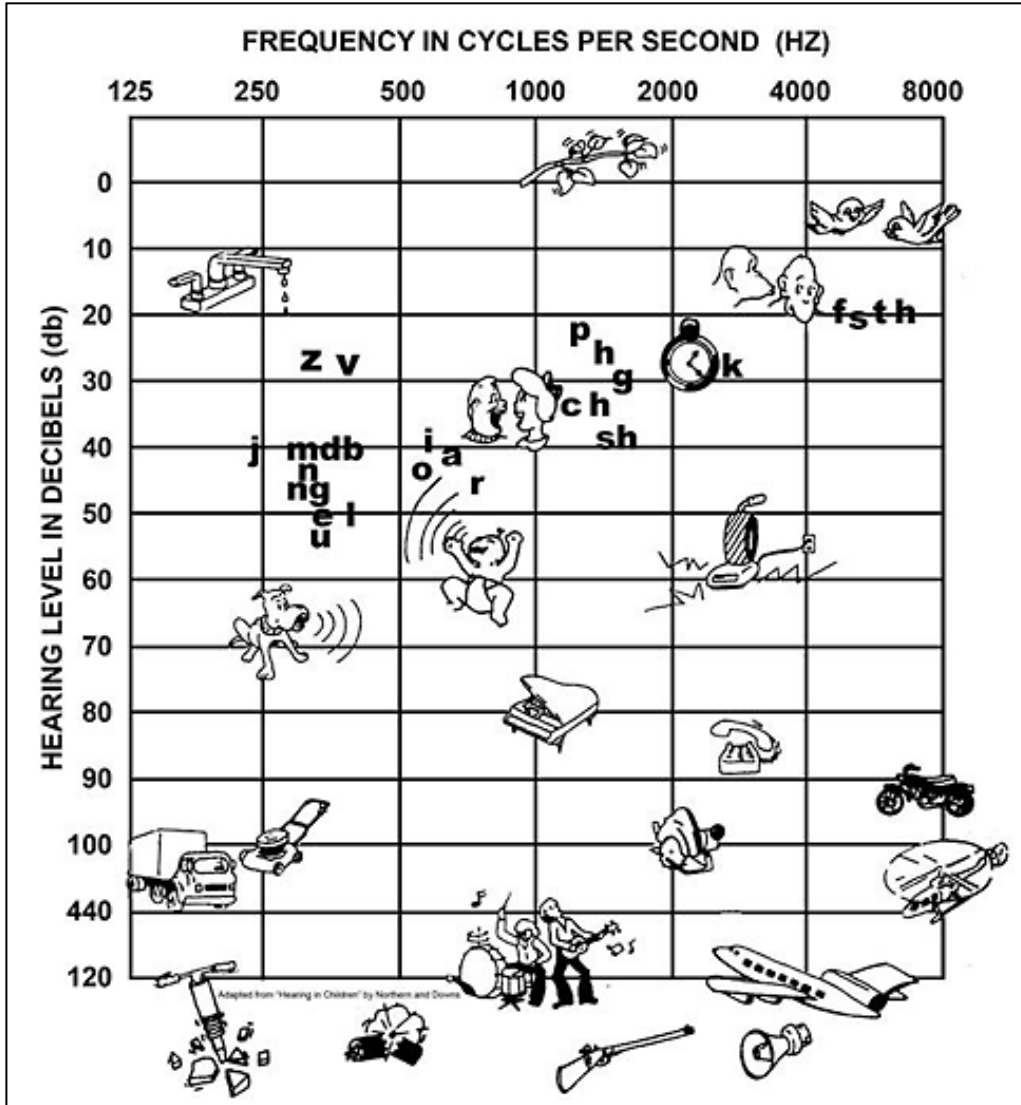
If your baby does not pass either the OAE or ABR, the test should be repeated or your baby should be referred to a hearing specialist for more extensive tests to detect hearing loss. An infant with hearing loss should begin receiving treatment before 6 months of age.

When hearing loss is detected late, language development can be delayed. Studies suggest that children treated this early are usually able to develop communication skills that are as good as those of hearing peers.

Taken from website Parent Guide News- <http://www.parentguidenews.com/Catalog/Baby/CanMyBabyHearMe>

Audiogram of Familiar Sounds

Below is an easy chart to help you figure out where exactly your child's hearing level is at.



Used with author's permission from "Hearing in Children, authored by J. Northern and M. Downs, (1991)



MOM to MOM

When a parent finds out that their child is deaf or hard of hearing, they often do not know what to do next. Of course the professionals direct them toward the early start programs, preschools, speech therapy, medical intervention and all of that is very important. But a professional cannot share in the parents experience as another parent can. Meeting another mom who also has a child can be very exciting. Another parent could be able to answer the questions and relay their own personal experiences.

The benefits of meeting other parents include:

- mutual support through contact with other parents of a deaf or hard of hearing child with similar condition
- sharing information which helps in caring for their child
- building confidence
- offers an opportunity to help other parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing

“Parents who frequently met with other parents of deaf and hard of hearing children reported less isolation, stronger emotional bonds with their child and greater acceptance for the child. Parents also emphasized the benefits of giving mutual practical help in coping with everyday challenges.” (Manfred Hintermair, 2000)

Offering support to parents is what Parent Links is all about. Each mentor is a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child.

- Through email, phone and mail we are here to help answer the questions that parents may have about raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Help parents find local connections.
- Parent Mentoring in Spanish and English

Just give us a call.

Parent Mentors

Exceptional Parents Unlimited

Darla Schwehr
Vicky Olea
4440 N. First Street
Fresno, CA 93726
559-229-2000 x 208

Counties

Alameda, Contra Costa
Fresno, Kings
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Merced, Monterey
San Benito, San Francisco
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Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
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Family Focus Resource & Empowerment Center

April Chauhan
Irma Sanchez
Cora Shahid
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330
818-677-6854 Office

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Rowell Family Empowerment Center

Kat Lowrance
Barb Ciukowski
962 Maraglia Street
Redding, CA 96002
530-226-5129

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