

For the parents of _____

Screeningnumber or ID: _____

Since January first 2009 the hearing of all newborn infants in Germany should be screened shortly after birth with a hearing test, either otoacoustic emissions (OAE) or an automated auditory brainstem response (AABR). A child will only learn to speak if it hears and therefore can imitate speech.

The hearing screening test did not show a clear response of your baby's ears

This does not necessarily mean that your baby has a hearing loss.

Some common reasons, other than hearing loss, are:

- your baby may have been unsettled at the time of screening
- there may have been background noise when the screening test was carried out
- your baby may have fluid or a temporary blockage in the ear after birth. This is very common and will pass with time.

Nevertheless the hearing screening test should be controlled. If your baby does have a hearing loss it is important that this is detected as soon as possible and if necessary therapy can start before the 6th month of life. The next hearing screening test should be done about 14 days after discharge from the obstetric or paediatric clinic.

Your doctor will test the hearing again with an objective test like an OAE or an AABR. A clinical examination or the feeling that your child hears is not sufficient because even babies who have a hearing loss will usually react to some sounds.

For the scheduled date please take the "yellow booklet" (baby's child-health record) with you. The result of the second screening test should be transmitted to the Screening Centre at the "Landesamt für Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit".

Please keep your child awake during your trip to the doctor as the screening test is easier to carry out if your baby is asleep.

If you have any questions please call the Screening Centre:

phone number: 09131-6808-5131 or send an e-mail hoerscreening@lgl.bayern.de.

You can also find some information at the internet:

<http://www.lgl.bayern.de/gesundheit/praevention/kindergesundheit/index.htm>

With best wishes for you and your child

Your screening team