# Newborn hearing – parent information

[Shot of baby lying down in bassinet]

The Newborn Hearing Screening programme in New Zealand aims to complete the hearing screening of all babies born by one month of age.

[Baby cradled in Mother arms]

The earlier that a permanent and significant hearing loss is detected and treated then the better the outcome is for that baby in terms of its development of speech and language.

[Shot of baby lying down in bassinet]

The test is very safe and simple and it doesn’t hurt baby.

Testing is faster and more accurate when baby is asleep.

And we’re going to test one ear first and then re-position and test the other ear.

[The screener applies gel to baby’s head]

Gel is gently rubbed onto 3 places on the baby’s head- below the ear, above the ear and on top of the forehead around the hair line.

[The hearing test handset is shown, pointing to the 3 sensors on the headset]

Soft sounds are produced from the handset with the speaker.

[The handset is placed on the baby’s head]

And the handset has 3 sensors on it and these sensors are placed on the prepared areas where we put the gel and the speaker is positioned over bubby’s ear.

[Camera pans to hearing test machine showing the test beginning on the monitor]

When the test begins the machine looks for good contacts with the sensors.

The test automatically starts once the impedances have been checked.

If there’s a clear response from the hearing nerve we can see the line moving upward on the graph and when it reaches the green area at the top, a pass is recorded.

[Hearing test machine shows a pass has been recorded]

The screener will tell you the result after the screening has been done.

[Camera pans back to baby lying in bassinet, gel is wiped from baby’s head]

The gel is then wiped baby’s head, and they will be then repositioned to be able to test the other ear.

A clear response to soft sounds may not always be observed for a number of reasons, baby may not have completely settled. They may still have some residual fluid left in their ears from after birth or for some babies there is a significant hearing loss.

If a clear response is not measured, then baby has another screening time arranged for them.