# What Does Your Child See? What Does Your Child Hear?

## Risk Factors for Vision Loss

* Family member concerned about the child’s vision.
* Baby was exposed to alcohol or drugs before birth.
* Baby was premature and given oxygen in the hospital.
* Baby had birth weight of less than 3.3 pounds.
* Child had meningitis or encephalitis.
* Mother had infection (toxoplasmosis, rubella, CMV, syphilis, herpes) during pregnancy.
* Family history of vision loss (retinitis pigmentosa).
* Baby has a syndrome or condition associated with visual impairment.
* Child experienced asphyxia or has had an injury or trauma to the head.
* Child has neurological problems, such as seizures.
* Child has other medical concerns (hearing loss, cerebral palsy).

| Typical Vision Development | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 0-1 month | Looks at mother’s or caregiver’s face. Responds to lights. |
|  | 2-4 months | Begins to smile at others. Follows a moving person with his/her eyes. Fascinated by lights and bright colors. Begins to look at own hands. |
|  | 5-8 months | Watches things happening across the room. Reaches for nearby toys. Looks at small objects, such as raisins or small cereal. |
|  | 9-12 months | Reacts to facial expressions of others (smiles, frowns, funny faces, etc.). Looks for fallen toys, even around corners. Is interested in picking up tiny objects such as lint on carpet. |
|  | 12-18 months | Marks and scribbles with a crayon. Interested in picture books. Can reach in and pull out objects easily. Builds a short tower with blocks. |
|  | 18-36 months | Sees detail in familiar pictures. Copies a circle with a pencil or crayon. Looks for familiar things in the distance. Can imitate movements of others. Matches objects to pictures. |

## Risk Factors for Hearing Loss

* Family member concerned about child’s hearing, speech, language, and developmental delay or developmental regression.
* Family history of early, progressive, or delayed onset childhood hearing loss.
* Baby was in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for five days or more.
* Baby had unusual ear, head, or neck formation (cleft lip or palate, microcephaly).
* Baby has a syndrome or condition associated with atypical hearing thresholds.
* Baby had birth weight of less than 3.3 pounds.
* Baby had severe jaundice and an exchange blood transfusion was recommended.
* Mother had infection (toxoplasmosis, rubella, CMV, syphilis, herpes, Zika) during pregnancy.
* Child experienced asphyxia or has had an injury or head trauma.
* Child had childhood infectious disease, such as meningitis or chicken pox.
* Family history of hearing loss.

| Typical Listening, Speech, and Language Development | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 0-4 months | Startles to loud sounds. Quiets to the sound of a familiar voice. |
|  | 4-6 months | Turns toward or looks for a familiar or new sound. Likes rattles and objects that make sound. |
|  | 6-12 months | Turns or looks up when called by name. Imitates sounds and pitches. Understands the meaning of simple words and phrases, such as “no” and “bye-bye.” Uses voice to get attention. |
|  | 12-18 months | Uses 4-5 words by 18 months. Points to at least one body part when asked. Understands one-step instructions, such as “Get me your diaper,” or “Close the door.” |
|  | 18-24 months | Uses 10-15 words and puts 2 words together by age 2 years. Likes music. Points to familiar objects when you name them. |
|  | 18-36 months | Uses 200 words by age 3 years. Listens to radio or TV at the same loudness as other people. Hears when called from another room. Uses 2-3 word sentences. Strangers can understand most of your child’s speech. |

*Prepared by the Colorado Services for Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss. Reprinted with permission and updated in 2020 by the National Center on Deaf-Blindness with additional information from:* Joint Commission on Infant Hearing. (2019). Year 2019 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs. *Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, 4*(2), 1-44.