What if my baby did not pass the hearing screening?

# My baby did not pass the hearing screening, what do I do next?

Please don’t panic. Not passing the hearing screening does not mean that your baby is deaf or hard-of-hearing. But we won’t know for sure without further testing. So your baby needs a Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE).

The DAE is performed by an audiologist, who is a special doctor trained to diagnose and manage hearing loss in infants, children, and adults.

Don't miss the DAE appointment. Only the DAE can determine the presence or absence of hearing loss. Early diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss will help your baby’s speech, communication, and learning.

# What to expect before your appointment…

* Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) will contact you. GEIS will assist you in scheduling an appointment for your baby with the audiologist.
* If you have medical insurance, you will need a referral from your Primary Care Physician (PCP) or Pediatrician to see the audiologist. GEIS will help you figure this out, too.

# How to prepare for the appointment…

For the DAE we want your baby to come to the appointment tired and hungry. Feeding a hungry and tired baby right before the test would help your baby sleep through the test.

* Don’t feed your baby 2 hours before the appointment time.
* Keep your baby **awake** 2 hours before the appointment. Try not to let your baby sleep on the car ride to the appointment.
* Bring a bottle or pacifier for your baby in the event he/she awakes before or during the DAE.
* Bring anything you need to keep your baby happy and asleep once you get to the appointment.
* Breastfeeding mothers are welcome to nurse their baby. We will have a private room for you.
* It’s best if you do not bring other children to the appointment. You will be too busy to watch other kids and the room must be quiet during testing.

# How long is the appointment?

The appointment can take 1 – 2 hours.

# How is the DAE done?

The audiologist will perform some or all of these tests. These tests are harmless. They don’t hurt. In fact, most babies sleep throughout the entire test procedure.

* Otoscopy – The audiologist will look into your baby’s ear with an otoscope or special ear light to look for ear wax, infection, or debris.
* Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) - THE ABR will record your baby’s brain activity to different sounds. Three electrodes will be placed on your baby’s head and insert
earphones will be placed in each ear. The electrodes record brain activity and the earphones deliver clicks and sound to each ear separately. The ABR will provide information on which sounds your baby can hear. This test is done for babies 0 to 6 months of age.
* Diagnostic Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) – A probe microphone is placed in your baby’s ear. This probe mic will send sounds and record echoes from the inner ear. The echo recordings can give us information on high-frequency hearing.
* Tympanometry - This test is used to check your baby’s middle ear. A small probe is placed in the ear canal and delivers positive and negative pressure. The pressure change will measure how well the eardrum moves and if the bones and muscles in the middle ear work. This test can help identify if there is an ear infection.

# DAE is done, what’s next?

* The audiologist will provide a report for you, Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS), and your baby’s doctor.
* Additional follow-up appointments with the audiologist and/or Ear, Throat, Nose (ENT) doctor may be necessary based on the results.
* If hearing loss is identified, hearing aid consultation, selection and fitting process will be coordinated by GEIS and the audiologist.

For more information, please call

Guam Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI)

Phone: 735-2466

Website: [www.guamehdi.org](http://www.guamehdi.org)

A picture of Guam Early Hearing Detection and intervention logo.

Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS)

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A picture of Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS)

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