

My child has been diagnosed with congenital CMV infection. When should his hearing be tested?

A child born with probable or confirmed CMV infection should have a hearing test done shortly after birth. Sometimes when a hearing test is warranted, a hearing screen is performed. Although it is better to have a hearing screen done on your child than no test at all, a comprehensive hearing evaluation called acoustic brainstem response is the preferred testing instrument for infants and small children. An ABR is a reliable hearing test that is performed by an audiologist. Ask your pediatrician or family practitioner to help you schedule an appointment for the test.

It is important to have your child's hearing checked as soon as it is feasible. Early detection of a hearing impairment is vital so that intervention and referral can be made as needed. Children with hearing loss are at risk for delayed speech and language development. Early identification of any hearing loss and appropriate intervention will help to ensure that your child has every opportunity to reach his full potential and has the best quality of life.