

Each day, infants and toddlers with unrecognized hearing loss fall further behind in language and learning.



How will we identify who they are to give them the help they need?

Permanent hearing loss is the most common birth defect in the U.S. Approximately 3 in every 1000 babies are born deaf or hard of hearing. In addition, hearing loss can occur at any time in a young child's life. By 6 years of age, about 6 in every 1000 suffer from significant hearing problems--often remaining undiagnosed, or misdiagnosed, for years.

Advances in technology now allow most newborns to receive an initial hearing screen shortly after birth. As a result, some babies receive essential hearing and language-learning help during their first months of life.

Unfortunately, most children with hearing loss who are not identified at birth will not receive another objective screening until they enter school. Few early childhood educators or health care providers are prepared to provide this vital service.

The Early Childhood Hearing Outreach (ECHO) Initiative



is helping early childhood educators and health care providers across the country learn to provide evidence-based hearing screening to young children.
(www.kidshearing.org)



Join with us to expand the outreach!

