

# Reacting to sounds in the first year



## Shortly after birth

Is startled by sudden loud noise such as a hand clap or a door slamming. Blinks or opens eyes widely to such sounds or stops sucking and starts to cry.

## 1 month

Starts to notice prolonged sounds like the noise of a vacuum cleaner and may turn towards the noise. Pauses and listens to the noises when they begin.

## 4 months

Quietens or smiles to the sound of familiar voice, even when unable to see speaker and turns eyes or head towards voice. Shows excitement at sounds e.g. voices, footsteps, etc.

## 7 months

Turns immediately to familiar voice across the room or to very quiet noises made on each side if not too occupied with other things.

## 9 months

Listens attentively to familiar everyday sounds and searches for very quiet sounds made out of sight.

## 12 months

Shows some response to own name. May also respond to expression like 'no' and 'bye bye', even when any accompanying gesture cannot be seen.

**If at any stage in the baby or child's development you think he/she may have difficulties hearing, contact your health visitor or family doctor.**