Here are some things a child with normal hearing should be able to do.

0-3 months

- Jumps at a sudden, loud noise
- Calms down when you speak

3-6 months

- Turns head or moves eyes to find your voice
- Plays at making noises and sounds

6-10 months

- Reacts to hearing his/her name
- Begins to understand easy words like "no" and "bye-bye"

10-15 months

- Repeats simple words and sounds you make
- Uses two to three words other than "ma-ma" and "da-da"

18 months

- Follows simple spoken directions
- Uses seven or more true words

24 months

- Understands when you call from another room
- Points to body parts when asked

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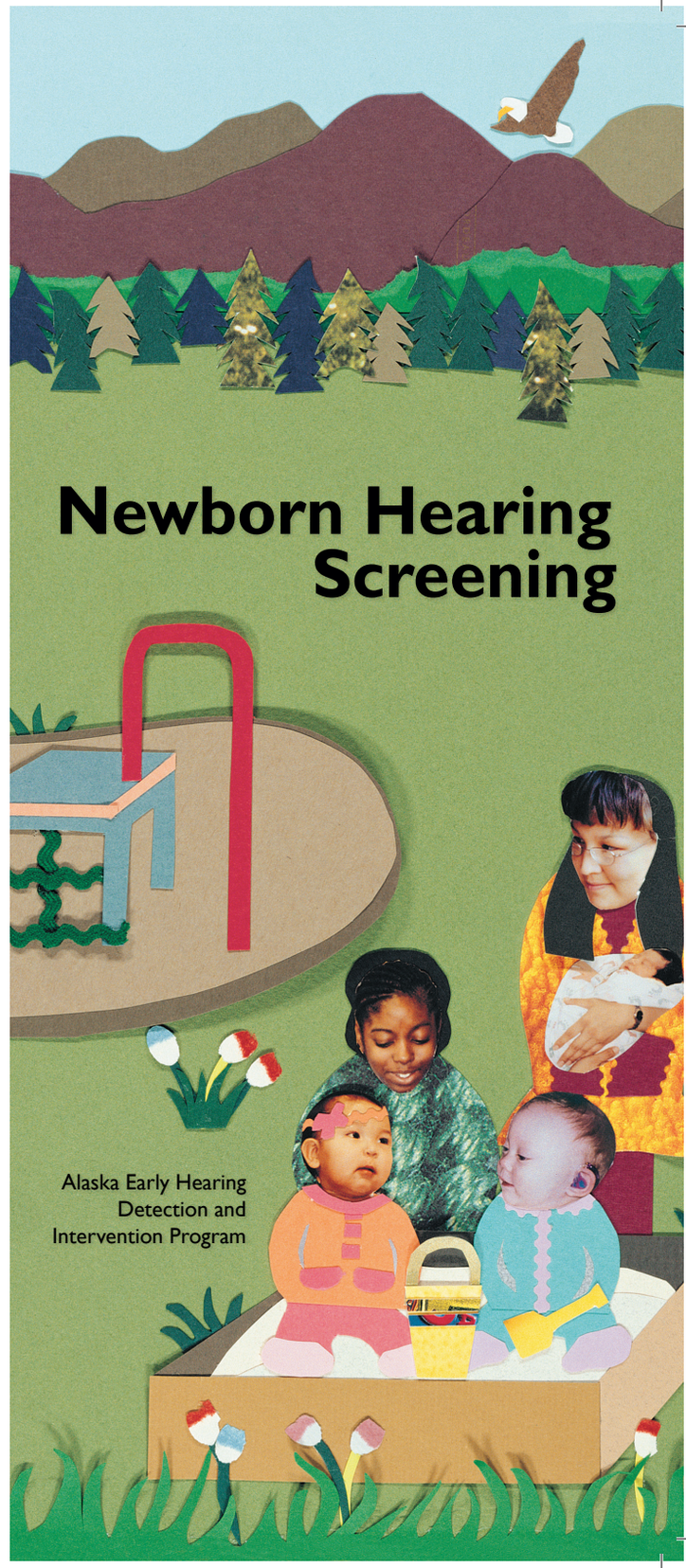

Newborn Hearing Screening

Alaska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

What is newborn hearing screening?

Newborn hearing screening will check to see if your baby's hearing is normal or whether more testing is needed. The screen does not hurt and is quick and easy. If your birthing facility does not offer newborn hearing screening, ask your healthcare provider to refer you to a place that does.

Who will perform the screening?

A trained person will screen your baby's hearing.

Why does my baby need a hearing screening?

As many as 20-30 babies are born in Alaska every year with hearing loss. That is why it is important to screen all newborn babies. If you find a hearing loss early, your child will have the best chance to learn.

The State of Alaska expects all babies to have a hearing screening before leaving the hospital or by 30 days of age (AS47.20.300 - 47.20.390).

Parents advocated for newborn hearing screening legislation so children will have the opportunity for optimal communication.

What if my baby does not pass?

If your baby does not pass the screening, you should make sure he/she has another screening in two weeks or as soon as possible. The facility that performs the screening will refer you to a pediatric audiologist if further testing is needed. A pediatric audiologist is a professional who specializes in childhood hearing.

Be sure to discuss your baby's screening or testing with your baby's healthcare provider.

It is never too late to have your baby's hearing tested.

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