Reaction to sounds checklist

This list and the Making Sounds Checklist give pointers about what to look for as your baby grows to check if he/she can hear. Babies differ widely in what they can do at any given age. The ages presented here are an approximate guide only.

**Shortly after birth - a baby:**

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

**1 month - a baby:**

Starts to notice sudden 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 - a baby:**

Quietens or smiles to the sounds of familiar voice even when unable to see speaker and turns eyes or head towards voice. Shows excitement at sounds (eg: voices, footsteps etc).

**7 months - a baby:**

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 - a baby:**

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

**12 months - a baby:**

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