

## HEARING LOSS

**H**earing loss is present at birth in 4 of the babies born in MN each week.

**E**very newborn should be screened for hearing loss by 1 month of age.

**A**mplification may help most deaf/hard of hearing infants.

**R**eceptive and expressive language development can be delayed by hearing loss.

**I**nfants with hearing loss may qualify for special education services.

**N**oise exposure can result in permanent hearing damage.

**G**enetic factors can cause hearing loss.

**L**oss in just one ear can seriously affect learning and language.

**O**titis media is a middle ear disease or infection.

**S**creening should be done periodically during the early childhood years.

**S**udden hearing loss can occur because of illness or chemotherapy.

Hearing is critical to child's speech and language development, interaction with others, and learning. Early identification of a child's hearing loss and quality early intervention services can significantly reduce the impact of hearing loss on a child and family. Every child's hearing should be tested at birth and monitored throughout the early childhood years.

All deaf or hard of hearing newborns should be evaluated as follows:

**by 1 month** – screened for hearing loss

**by 3 months** – evaluated by an audiologist

**by 6 months** – enrolled in an Early Intervention Program