IS MY CHILD AT RISK FOR HEARING LOSS?

Possibly. Some babies are born with medical conditions that are associated with hearing loss. These may include infections, such as CMV, herpes, rubella, syphilis, and toxoplasmosis. Newborns that have stays longer than 5 days in the intensive care or require transfusions for jaundice may be at risk for hearing loss. Children with some syndromes or differences in the shape of the head/face can also have hearing loss. Certain chemotherapy treatments or medications typically used to treat severe infections are known to be toxic to the hearing system. Additionally, a family history of childhood hearing loss may indicate a genetic hearing loss.

This is not a complete list of all of the conditions that can be associated with hearing loss. If you have questions about whether your child is at risk for hearing loss, ask your pediatrician, family doctor, or an audiologist. Remember, your child’s hearing can be tested at any age.