

Practice Exercise #3



Follow the **OAE Screening Skills Checklist** found at the back of this handout as you screen at least 5 children, varying in age, who are in same age range as children you will be screening in your program. Consider starting your practice session with slightly older children as it is often easier to elicit their cooperation. It is always a good idea to screen cooperative children first because they will set the tone for other children who may be watching.

As the screening proceeds, watch the unit display for a pass or refer result, or an error message, and complete the appropriate next step. If you do not obtain a “pass” on a given ear and the child is still cooperative, repeat the screening by:

- ✓ Repositioning the probe
- ✓ Reducing external noise
- ✓ Checking probe for wax and cleaning or replacing with new probe cover
- ✓ Quieting and reducing movement of the child
- ✓ Using unique, quiet toys to distract the child
- ✓ Eliciting the help of another adult or screener

Record the final results for each ear:

Child 1 Right Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____
Left Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____

Child 2 Right Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____
Left Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____

Child 3 Right Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____
Left Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____

Child 4 Right Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____
Left Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____

Child 5 Right Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____
Left Ear: Pass ___ Refer ___ Error message _____

OAE Screening Skills Checklist

✓Preparation

- Parents informed about OAE screening (parent letter)
- Adults (teacher, caregiver, parent, etc.) prepared to assist with screening
- Posters and “Listen Up” DVD provided to introduce children to screening

✓Set-up

- Appropriate environment selected or created
- Appropriate distracters (quiet toys) available
- All screening materials and supplies available
- Equipment functioning properly
- Hands sanitized per program’s universal precautions policy

✓Child Management

- Playful, positive rapport established with the child
- Child positioned/re-positioned to facilitate screening
- Child quietly told (not asked) what the screener is going to do
- Visual or tactile distracters used, as needed, to engage child
- Assistance enlisted to distract child and/or re-direct behaviors

✓Start Screening

- Visual inspection of outer ear
- Remote probe assembly clipped to back of collar
- Screening unit turned on
- Tip placed properly on probe, pressed down all the way to probe base
- (Foam tips only) Tip formed into mushroom shape, away from probe opening
- Outer ear pulled back during probe tip insertion
- Probe inserted with angle toward the nose, then angled back
- Hands removed from ear and probe after insertion

✓Complete Screening

- Appropriate probe fit achieved (may require reinsertion of probe or different size)
- Correct buttons pushed to proceed quickly through the screening process
- If “refer” result, probe removed, checked for earwax, and re-inserted snugly
- If other non-passing result, equipment, environment, and/or screening conditions checked and adjusted prior to additional screening attempt.
- Probe removed by grasping the probe, not the cable
- Probe tip and nozzle checked for earwax blockage, replaced if needed, and other ear screened
- (Foam tips only) Tip removed by grasping plastic tubing, not foam material
- Used probe tip(s) placed in bag or container for disposal

✓Documentation

- Visual inspection outcome documented
- Screening outcome documented after completion of screening for each ear
- Appropriate follow-up step(s) identified



Supplies:

- Screening equipment (fully charged or extra batteries, as needed)
- Probe tips/covers (adult & pediatric sizes)
- Quiet toys/distractors
- Hand disinfectant
- Bag for used probe tips
- OAE Hearing Screening documentation forms
- Pen
- Flashlight (if screening in low light during naptime)
- Reward stickers