

Age 3-18 years:

All personnel providing in-office hearing screenings (i.e., nurse, assistant, or technician) should receive training from a licensed audiologist prior to performing behavioral hearing screenings.

Behavioral Testing Methods

Conditioned play audiometry:

This is a testing method which uses a conditioned play response from the child and is recommended for any child who is unable to respond via the conventional hand-raising method.

Traditional audiometric procedure:

This is a testing method which uses the conventional hand-raising method of response and is recommended for any child who understands the task.

Preliminary Testing Considerations

- all screening equipment should be calibrated on an annual basis
- prior to performing the hearing screening, a listening check of the equipment should be performed by the screening personnel
- testing should be conducted in a quiet environment, free of visual distractions or cues
- testing should be conducted under headphones so ear specific information can be obtained

Testing Method:

- *test frequencies:* 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, and 4000 Hz in both ears
- *familiarization & conditioning of the task:* initial presentations of test frequencies should be clearly audible (i.e., 40-50 dB HL)
- *passing response at a test frequency:* appropriate response at 20 dB HL at least two out of three times
- test one ear at a time; raising either hand, regardless of which ear you are testing, is considered a response

Results of Testing:

PASS: child must respond to each test frequency consistently at 20 dB HL in each ear

REFER: child does not respond at 20 dB HL at any one test frequency in either ear *

** if the child does not pass, re-instruct, reposition headphones, and re-screen within the same session using the same testing procedure*

Hearing Loss: unilateral or bilateral sensorineural and/or conductive hearing levels greater than 20 dB HL.

Next Steps:

- Any newborn or child who passes the re-screening is considered a PASS
- Any newborn or child who does not pass the re-screening, or who does not condition properly to the test procedure, should be referred to a licensed audiologist for further testing
- Follow-up hearing diagnostic testing with a licensed audiologist should be performed within 1 month (no later than 3 months) from the initial hearing screening

The following are considered inappropriate hearing screening methods according to the guidelines set forth by ASHA:

- behavioral measures to screen newborns and very young infants up to 6 months of age.
- presentation signals that are not frequency specific (i.e. speech, music, and broadband noises)
- use of non-calibrated signals (i.e. rattles, noise-makers, and finger snapping)