

Department of Health Children with Special Health Needs Hearing Advisory Council 108 Cherry Street, PO Box 70, Drawer 28 Burlington, VT 05402

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Suggested Protocols for Hearing Screening in Children (birth – 18 years)

The following suggestions are based on guidelines recommended by the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (ASHA Desk Reference, Volume 4, Audiologic Screening, 1996).

Birth-3 years:

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS):

Every baby born in Vermont is offered an initial hearing screening prior to discharge from the hospital; or on an outpatient basis if born at home or not screened in the hospital. Newborn hearing screening is conducted by using objective, physiological testing, such as Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) or Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR).

Outpatient Hearing Screenings:

- Newborns that do not pass or do not receive an initial hearing screening from the hospital should be referred for an outpatient hearing screening.
- ~Outpatient screenings are available at many of Vermont's birthing hospitals, through the Hearing Outreach Program (HOP), and some audiology facilities throughout the state and region. Newborn hearing screenings should be conducted using objective testing methods, such as, OAE or AABR. All newborns admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) should be screened by AABR per the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) Year 2007 Position Statement. Call the Vermont Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Coordinator at 800-660-4427 ext 1330 or 865-1330 for outpatient screening options in your area.
 - Newborns that pass their initial hearing screening, but have a risk factor for late onset hearing loss, should be monitored periodically (see attached list of high-risk factors).
 - Toddlers for whom there is concern about hearing, speech or language development should be referred for a current hearing screening.

Important: With the exception of UNHS, hearing screenings on any child under the age of 3 years should be performed only by a licensed audiologist who has an expertise in the evaluation of children.

For a list of audiologists and facilities, visit:

http://www.healthvermont.gov/family/hearing/regional aud.aspx