

What You Need To Know About Childhood Hearing Screening



Did you know?

- Approximately 3 in 1000 babies are born with permanent hearing loss
- By school age, 6 in 1000 children have developed permanent hearing loss
- **During school-age years**, permanent hearing loss affects 4 - 5 in every **100** kids!

Did you know?

- Like changes in one's vision, changes in hearing often go unnoticed by both children and the adults in their lives.
- Undetected mild and moderate hearing loss can hinder language learning, academics, socialization, and overall mental health.

❖ **This is why periodic hearing screenings are central to the mission of schools and health care. Undetected changes in hearing can have life-long impacts.**

Fortunately, parents and professionals can work together to find and help the children who need it. All children should have the benefit of periodic, reliable hearing screening:



- ❖ Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) screening can be done with a child of any age. A small probe, like an earbud, is placed in the ear. This sends a series of soft clicks or tones into the ear and also collects the inner ear's response through a tiny microphone and provides a pass or fail response, usually in a matter of seconds.



- ❖ Pure Tone Screening, for children age 3 and older, uses headphones to test responses to sounds. The screener determines if the child achieves the pass criteria based on multiple attempts.

www.kidshearing.org

These screening methods can help us to identify children who need further hearing evaluation. When a child doesn't pass, a visit to a health care provider can often resolve temporary problems such as a wax blockage in the ear canal or a middle ear infection. It is important to know, though, that most healthcare providers do not conduct hearing screenings. Make sure another screening is always done after common problems have been resolved. If a child still does not pass the hearing screening, referral to a pediatric audiologist is essential. If a child has permanent hearing loss, effective intervention should be started immediately.



- ✓ A hearing screening is just the first step. Parents and professionals must ensure follow-ups for those who don't pass.
- ✓ Always include a hearing screening in learning assessments.
- ✓ Regular screenings reinforce the vital role hearing plays in communication, learning, socialization, and mental health.