

Tips for Pediatric Hearing Screening – Nurses Edition

Some General Tips to Get You Started

- Go to a quiet room
- Leave siblings, especially young siblings, out of the testing area—many times they can be a distraction.
- Try to face the child at an angle from you so they cannot see your face, but you can see theirs.
- Be careful not to cue them when you are presenting the beeps—smiling every time you present the button, etc.
- Condition the child to the tone first---turn it up to 40 dB HL, familiarize them with the task, and then drop down to 20 to begin the screen.
- Present the beeps no longer than 4 beeps at a time.
- Make sure to pause between beep presentations; children can pick up on patterns and predict when the beep will be there!
- Reposition the headphones, sometimes they can sit awkward on the ear and cause a hearing issue.
- Avoid using the word ‘No’. To many children, the word ‘no’ is a word for when they have done something wrong
- Avoid using the word “failed”. Try using the phrase “did not pass”!

Tips for Developmental Ages 10 Years and Above

- Hand-raising becomes a chore for these ages and many preteens / teenagers do not appreciate having to raise their hand when they hear the beep—they can find this childish; so have them say “yes” when they hear the beep!
- This age group should only require one tester.

If you wish to refer a challenging patient or simply have questions about hearing screening, please call the Division of Audiology at 513-636-4236.

Thanks for all you do!

Nurses are tasked with many jobs during the day and sometimes, you are the first professional to identify a child with a possible hearing loss through hearing screenings provided at the child’s Primary Care Physicians Office.

We’ve decided to compile a helpful tip list for you to have to help make hearing screenings a little easier (and quicker) just for you!

*The Audiologists at
Cincinnati Children’s*