

HEARSAY is a quarterly newsletter generated
by the EARS Program at Arkansas Children's Hospital

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Message from the Editor

HEARSAY is a newsletter for school professionals in Arkansas who are educating students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Each issue will include information, resources, and tips for working with this unique student population. We'd love to hear from you and address topics you suggest. Please email your questions/suggestions to ears@archildrens.org

Raise Your Hand If...

...it's hearing screening time again! Below are a few tips and tricks for our school nurses that might help in the hearing screening process.

Students to Screen

- * Grades: K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
- * Transfer Students
- * Special Education Referrals/Re-Evaluations

When to Screen

- * **NOT** the first week of school - Students need time to adjust to school environment
- * Don't wait too long - Cold and flu season, need time for follow-up

Hearing Screening Do's and Don'ts

- DO** Find a quiet room to test
Present tone for at least 3 seconds
Use a pulsed tone
- DON'T** Require student to raise right/left hand
Get in a pattern
Give visual cues
Screen an ear with known hearing loss
Switch out headphones on audiometers

Hearing Screening Protocol

Right Ear 1000 Hz 20 dB
2000 Hz 20 dB
4000 Hz 20 dB

Left Ear 1000 Hz 20 dB
2000 Hz 20 dB
4000 Hz 20 dB

- * Need to obtain 2 responses in each ear at each frequency for a pass
- * We consider 20dB to be a "pass" result because it is within the normal range of hearing. Anything obtained above 20dB (e.g., 25dB, 40dB, etc.) would be considered a hearing loss.

Headphone Placement

- Place the headphones on student
- Red on right ear** — **Blue on left ear**
- Hair behind ears
- Remove large earrings and glasses
- Diaphragm of headphones over ear canal
- Adjust head band for snug, **even** fit
- Head band on top of head is preferred

How to Screen

Instruct student for the task (e.g. raise hand when they hear the beep). Condition the student to the task (i.e. present a tone in one ear at one frequency ABOVE the screening level – example: 50 dB). Once the student is conditioned – start the screening protocol @ 20 dB HL.

Alternate Screening Methods

- Play Audiometry**
Use with students who are difficult-to-test, who are developmentally delayed, or who are non-English speaking
Use a play task (drop blocks in a bucket)
- Student purposefully not responding?**
Try having the student count the number of beeps that they heard and tell you that number. Regardless of the number of beeps that the student indicated, if they respond with a "count" when you present the tone, you most likely have a response that you can use.

Remember...

- Student must pass all frequencies in an ear for that ear to be classified as a "pass". If a student does not pass ALL frequencies in each ear, re-screen the student in 2-4 weeks.
- Refer immediately if you observe physical abnormalities (i.e., otoscopy/visual exam of ear) that are not documented in the student's file. Refer to MD or Audiologist if fails rescreen of hearing.
- Send letter, referral form, financial assistance information and list of appropriate professionals to the parent/guardian. Forms are available on the Arkansas Coordinated School Health Website: <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/school-health-services/school-nursing/health-screenings-in-schools>

Virtual Consultation - Do you have a hearing screening question?

Email EARS at ears@archildrens.org to set up a time for a phone consultation

Cared to Share

We have found the following new resources helpful and think you might too!
(Click the name of each below to access the link.)

Hear To Learn offers downloadable activities that focus on language, literacy, math, and music.

SignIt is a basic online American Sign Language course that's free for parents of young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The self-paced curriculum is ten units and is estimated to take 25-30 hours to complete.

Ida Institute has many FREE therapy tools available as well as tools for kids and families.

EARS Resources

YouTube

Just a reminder to take a look at our YouTube Channel. We have lots of informational video clips which might be helpful to you when working with your students.

<http://tinyurl.com/EARSVideosPlaylist>

HEARSAY

This link will take you to our newsletter, HEARSAY. We typically publish 3-4 issues per year. As new issues are added, you will have access to them via this link.

<https://tinyurl.com/EARSHearSayNewletters>