



Listen from Ear to Ear Tips of the Month

OSDH Newborn Hearing
Screening Program

Issue II

August 1, 2011

HEARING SCREENING IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY!!!!

Don't Ask!!!

Performing hearing screenings on infants and children does demand a unique skill, whether it is performing an Otoacoustic Emission Screening (OAE) or Conditioned Play Audiometry (CPA). In an attempt to be respectful to children during the screening, many screeners fall into the pattern of asking "Can I put this in/on your ear?" or "Can I test your hearing now?" It should come as no surprise when most children will respond with an unequivocal "NO!!!!"

To be a successful screener, the words you choose to describe what is going to happen as well as the tone of your voice plays a big part in eliciting cooperation. More successful screenings are

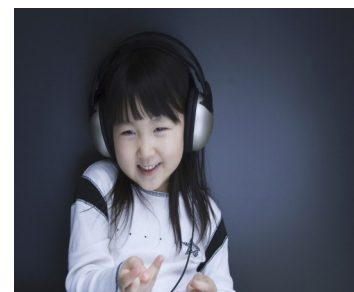
accomplished by using language like, "Let's play a listening game. I'm going to put this in your ear so you can hear the birdie!" This directive approach can be more reassuring to a child than a question. If you feel the child needs to see and touch the probe prior to insertion, you may let the child feel the probe tip while commenting. "It's very soft -like a little pillow" For very young children; however, it is sometimes better not to draw attention to the probe by saying anything about it at all. Instead, help maintain focus on something they enjoy touching or watching. The last thing you want to do is divert attention to the sensation of the probe being placed in their ear. Redirect a child's attention away from the ear by stroking the child's forehead or arm or by letting them play with an interesting toy.

Babies and toddlers love to grab, so attaching the cord to the back of their clothing or blanket so that it is out of their field of vision is helpful. Most OAE equipment comes with a clip with Velcro that allows you to do that. Every child is different and every screening session can be different so it is important to be creative and FLEXIBLE!! Some items useful to have in your bag of tricks to draw attention away from the probe.

- * bubbles
- * mirrors- babies love to look at themselves
- * puppets
- * pop-up books
- * video (no sound)
- * toys with lights
- * turning room lights down makes the toys/videos more interesting/ the room less distracting

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Wayne Berryhill
Cochlear Implant Support
Group
Tulsa University
September 22, 2011



Performing Conditioned Play Audiometry can be challenging but fun for all!!!

Our physiologic hearing screening tools are great (AABR and OAE) but a very useful tool is also CPA.

REMEMBER:

Our physiologic tools **do not** tell us everything about a child's hearing sensitivity. Once a child reaches a developmental age that you feel he/she is ready for CPA, pull out your audiometer, but be ready for a challenge. It is important to consider a child's motor needs and select toys that are easy enough for the child to manipulate so he/she can do the "listen and drop" task without frustration.

THE SIMPLER THE BETTER!!!

- * Blocks are great
- * Peg boards-choose ones with large pegs for easy manipulation
- * Don't use complicated toys
- * Positioning the child is critical
- * Face the child, making sure not to provide too many visual cues while screening
- * Train the child first to task before placing earphones on
- * Assist on the "listen and drop" task by gently taking their hand with the block in it and assisting them to drop it
- * Present stimulus at an intensity that you feel he/she can hear it so they know what to listen for
- * Train with 1000Hz tone as it is the easiest tone to hear
- * Use "pulsed" or "warble tone" to make the stimulus more UNIQUE!
- * Then test 2kHz, 4kHz and then 1kHz – in case child fatigues
- * Change tasks frequently!!! i.e. dropping blocks, clapping etc.

Cleaning Tips for OAE/Tymp

- Cleaning Probes: Thin dental floss works great! Feed it through the probe openings and then dispose of it for infection control.
- Cleaning Tips: Small ultrasonic cleaner (like a jewelry cleaner). Utilize sanitizing solution specifically for this purpose. The solution lasts a week in the cleaner. Clean the tips once a day, running it for three minutes, rinse and let dry. Change the solution once a week for proper infection control in your clinic.

REMEMBER: Submit any questions/topics you would like discussed to DebbieE@health.ok.gov