



Hearing Tests

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information. Please talk with your child's doctor or pediatric audiologist to get more specific information. Call **813-262-1330** to schedule an appointment with a pediatric audiologist.

What is a hearing screen?

A hearing screen is a quick check to see if your child might have a hearing loss.

- If your child passes the hearing screen, his/her hearing is most likely fine.
- If your child fails the hearing screen, he/she will need more complete testing to determine if they have a hearing loss.

What is tympanometry?

Tympanometry is a test to see if your child's eardrum and middle ear are working well. It does not test hearing.

- This test can tell if your child has fluid in his/her ears like an ear infection.
- If this test is not normal, your child may have a temporary hearing loss related to the fluid being in his/her ears.
- This test does not hurt and can be done on a child of any age.



What is behavioral testing?

Behavioral testing checks your child's responses to sound in a sound-treated booth.

- Your child must be able to pay attention for a few minutes for the test to be completed.
- Children as young as 6 months of age can be tested behaviorally. Listening games are used with young children to see how they hear.
- Depending on your child's age and development, he/she might see a toy that lights up, put a peg in a board, or raise his/her hand for sounds.
- Hearing is tested with tones of different pitches and with speech sounds (like words).
- If your child's test results are not normal, he/she may need more tests before we can tell if a hearing loss is present.

What are Otoacoustic Emissions?

Otoacoustic emissions test a part of the inner ear called the outer hair cells. This test does not hurt your child. It usually takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Different pitched tones are played in your child's ear.

- This test can be done with a child of any age, but the child must be quiet to get accurate results. Normal results mean that part of the inner ear is working properly.
- If this test is not normal, more tests are needed to determine what is going on with your child's hearing.

Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Testing?

This test measures the hearing system up to the level of the brainstem, which is the area at the base of the brain. It does not hurt your child.

- This test can be done with a child of any age, but the child must be quiet and still to get accurate results.
- If your child has a hearing loss, the ABR can tell about how much hearing loss he/she has at different pitches.

What is Auditory Processing Testing?

An auditory processing disorder (APD) means that a child can hear well, but may not always understand speech well. Children with an APD may have trouble listening when it's noisy, trouble following multi-step directions, or telling the difference between like-sounding speech sounds.

- A child should be at least 7 years old to have this test.
- It requires a child to pay attention and repeat numbers, words, and sentences that he/she hears.
- This test usually cannot be done with children who have an autism spectrum disorder or with lower than average intelligence.