



Hearing Referral

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for allowing us to perform a hearing screening on _____ on _____.

It is through hearing that children learn to understand language and begin to talk. It is critical that children, especially babies, have normal hearing so that they can develop good speech and language skills and communicate with the people and the world around them. A hearing impairment can significantly delay or prevent the learning of communication skills.

Audiometry – is one type of screening that we do. A small soft ear piece is placed in the ear canal and the child is asked to raise their hand when they hear the tone or beep. Different tones are presented in each ear and each ear is tested separately. If a child hears all of the tones, and responds at the correct times, then a PASS score is given. If the child does not respond to some or all of the tones, a full audiological evaluation is usually recommended. We may also try our other screening method with the child who does not pass this screening.

Otoacoustic Emissions Testing (OAE) – is the other type of hearing screening that we do. OAE measures the functioning of certain structure in the inner ear. Otoacoustic emissions are faint sounds produced by most normal inner ears and are detected in the form of “echoes” by very sensitive microphones that are placed in the ear canal and then sent to a computer for recording. If any of the echoes are not received by the computer, a medical referral will be made. Sometimes, an **ear infection** will cause this to happen. Other times, **impacted** wax – wax that has become thick and hard and is blocking the ear canal – can cause this to occur. **A medical referral** is made in order for you to take your child to their pediatrician to rule out infection of the ear, fluid in the inner ear, or impacted wax. It is important that you take your child to their pediatrician after this screening if a medical referral has been indicated so any needed treatment can be determined.

Otoscopic Examination – is done by looking at the ears with a special instrument called an OTOSCOPE. Sometimes just looking in the ear can help us determine why your child MAY have failed his or her hearing screening today. If your child has PE tubes, we can sometimes see that the tubes are in place. If we see that the tubes are out of place or plugged with ear wax or if we see redness or swelling, we will usually recommend that you make an appointment with your child’s pediatrician. Sometimes, though, the ear may look healthy despite the fact that the child failed the screening. In this case, we usually recommend a full hearing evaluation to rule out possible hearing loss.

RESULTS OF SCREENING

<u>Audiometry</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Left ear	<input type="checkbox"/> Right ear	<input type="checkbox"/> Both ears	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Tested
	<input type="checkbox"/> Failed	<input type="checkbox"/> Left ear	<input type="checkbox"/> Right ear	<input type="checkbox"/> Both ears	
<u>Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Left ear	<input type="checkbox"/> Right ear	<input type="checkbox"/> Both ears	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Tested
	<input type="checkbox"/> Failed	<input type="checkbox"/> Left ear	<input type="checkbox"/> Right ear	<input type="checkbox"/> Both ears	

Otoscopic Examination – Right Ear _____
 Left Ear _____