

Hearing Screening Information and Recommendations

- Normal Hearing is considered between 0 and 15 dB
- Minimal Hearing loss (but potentially educationally significant) is 15- 25 dB
- Anything threshold over 25dB means a failed hearing screen and a referral for repeat screening or a full evaluation.
- If a child fails a screening and you have a school nurse, please have them check for ear wax. Ear wax will not clear itself once it is occluding the ear therefore a referral to their family physician is indicated rather than waiting to re-screen at school.

Testing Method:

Calibration information is completed annually and is either kept inside the audiometer or on file in the hearing resource room at Monroe.

Consistently use Red headphone on Right Ear and Blue Headphone on Left Ear. Do not use the bone conduction piece for hearing screenings. Check all plugs for a secure connection before starting a test. Set your audiometer at 20 dB and test 1k for each headphone on yourself before you start testing for the day (a biologic check helps prevent inaccurate information and re-testing).

Have baby wipes available to clean off headphones between tests (alcohol wipes are not recommended as they dry out the rubber on the headphones quickly and you don't get a good seal around the ear).

Set the student up at 45 degrees from where you are sitting to help minimize the likelihood of them obtaining visual cues from you while you are testing.

Start your first test at 1000 Hz at 40dB (to condition young students) and descend in 10 dB steps as long as you get an affirmative response, you may stop at 20 dB. If you don't get 20, go back up to 25. If you get a response at 25 you would still have a pass.

Test 2k, 4k, by leaving your audiometer set a 20dB and presenting the test tone, if there is no response try at 25

Screening does not mean looking for thresholds. You may certainly repeat a frequency/test to be comfortable with your test results.

If the child passes the pitches you test you can report they have passed a hearing screening. DO NOT report they have "normal hearing" as a screening can still miss a high or low frequency hearing loss.

Children/Adults that are difficult to test using an audiometer can often be tested using OAE in a quiet area. However a PASS with OAE screen can not rule out a mild hearing loss. OAE's can not be completed when there is a significant amount of wax in the ear, it will plug the probe.