



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport



Informing parents about OAE hearing screening *(1st and 2nd round)*

The first round of screening

The pre-test discussion

- Check whether the parents have received and read the leaflet about the hearing screening and the heel prick test. If necessary, show them the folder on the following site: www.rivm.nl/geboorte. A few translations are also available on this site. Ask them if everything is clear.
- If the answer is 'No', explain the purpose of the hearing screening test once again:
 - Hearing tests are available to all babies shortly after their birth.
 - We use this test to find out if your child can hear well enough for it to learn to speak well
 - We test at an early stage so that treatment, if required, can start as soon as possible, in any event before your child reaches the age of six months. This is important for language development.
- Parents are at liberty to decide whether or not to have their child tested. You must, therefore, ask permission to perform the test:
 - May I have your permission to give your child a hearing test?
- If the answer is 'No', record this in the hearing screening test equipment and conclude the visit.
- Find out whether the child was admitted to the hospital:
 - How is your child doing?
 - Did your child have health issues that caused it to be admitted to hospital?
- If the answer is 'Yes', ask the questions listed in the appropriate section in the hospital protocol. Did the parents answer 'Yes' to one or more questions? If so, do not proceed with the test. Instead, contact the regional coordinator and conclude the visit.
- Explain the details of the hearing test:

- A soft earplug will be inserted into each of your child's ears.
- This earplug produces a soft sound into the ear.
- If the ear is working properly, it will react by making a sound of its own.
- We can detect this sound via a microphone in the earplug.
- The equipment assesses the sound and presents the test result. The equipment will then shut down automatically.
- The equipment is sensitive to ambient noise. It is, therefore, important for the room to be as quiet as possible while the measurement is being made.

The post-test discussion

- A. **The test results for both ears are satisfactory.**
Inform the parents of the results:
 - The test results for both ears are satisfactory.
 - This means that, at the present time, your child can hear well enough with both ears for it to learn to speak well.
 - The test does not give a 100% guarantee that your child's hearing is satisfactory. It is, therefore, important that you stay focused on your child's hearing abilities. Another reason for doing so is that, very occasionally, children can also become hearing impaired later in their childhood.
 - If you are worried about your child's hearing, you should consult your GP or the child health centre.
- B. **The test result is satisfactory for one ear, unsatisfactory for one ear. Inform the parents of the results:**
 - The test result is satisfactory for one ear.
 - This means that, at the present time, your child can hear well enough with this ear for it to learn to speak well.
 - I cannot prove that for the other ear at the present time.
 - There can be a variety of causes, such as ambient noise, ear-wax or the common cold. But it might also be that your child is hearing impaired.
 - At the present time, the cause is not clear. Your child will, therefore, be given a second hearing test.
 - Someone will contact you by phone to make an appointment.
- C. **The test results for both ears are unsatisfactory.**
Inform the parents of the results:
 - The test results for both ears are unsatisfactory.
 - This means that, at the present time, I cannot prove that your child can hear well enough for it to learn to speak well.
 - There can be a variety of causes, such as ambient noise, ear-wax or the common cold. But it might also be that your child is hearing impaired.
 - At the present time, the cause is not clear. Your child will, therefore, be given a second hearing test.
 - Someone will contact you by phone to make an appointment.

The second round of screening

The pre-test discussion

- Ask the parents if they have any further questions. If necessary, explain the procedure once again (see 'The first round of screening').
- Next perform the hearing test on the ear that gave an unsatisfactory result during the previous test.

The post-test discussion

A. The test results for both ears are satisfactory.

Inform the parents of the results:

- The test results for both ears are satisfactory.
- This means that, at the present time, your child can hear well enough with both ears for it to learn to speak well.
- The test does not give a 100% guarantee that your child's hearing is satisfactory. It is, therefore, important that you stay focused on your child's hearing abilities. Another reason for doing so is that, very occasionally, children can also become hearing impaired later in their childhood.
- If you are worried about your child's hearing, you should consult your GP or the child health centre.

B. The test results for one or both ears are unsatisfactory. Inform the parents of the results:

- At the present time, I cannot prove that your child can hear well enough with both ears for it to learn to speak well.
- There can be a variety of causes, such as ambient noise, ear-wax or the common cold. It might also be that your child is permanently hearing impaired.
- At the present time, the cause is not clear. Your child will, therefore, be given a second hearing test, using a different piece of equipment.
- This test may take a little longer, but it will not cause your child any pain.
- Someone will contact you by phone to make an appointment.

- Inform the regional coordinator that the child is eligible for an AABR screening. Inform the coordinator of the child's name and address, and any other relevant details.

Screening programmes can be identified by this logo:

***bevolkings*onderzoek**

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