



## Next Steps to Better Hearing for Children

If you suspect your child has hearing loss you should schedule an appointment with your pediatrician.

The doctor will give your child a thorough examination and will look for signs of fluid, infection, earwax, ear abnormalities and foreign objects in the ear. If the examination appears normal and illness is ruled out, the doctor will refer you to a licensed audiologist for a hearing test.

### Audiologists utilize different types of tests:

**Electrophysiologic** — a non-invasive physiologic test in which information is recorded via electrodes placed on the child's head while sound is transmitted to the child's ear through headphones/insert earphones. This test is relatively quick and does not require your child's participation although the best responses are recorded

from a quiet, still child. Hearing status is inferred from the results. (i.e., Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR), Auditory Steady State Response (ASSR), etc)

**Behavioral Audiometry** — tests given to children that measure their behavioral reaction to sound either through direct response or observation of sounds/speech presented through speakers/headphones/headphones/insert earphones in a sound treated booth. These tests are a direct measure of hearing ability and do require cooperative participation from your child.

**Tympanometry** — a test used to evaluate the status of the middle ear by examining ear canal volume, and mobility of the eardrum. This test is not a measure of hearing.

### Fact Sheet

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**Otoacoustic emission testing** — (OAEs) are acoustic responses (or sounds) generated by a healthy inner ear. This test is quick and does not require your child's participation although the best responses are recorded from a quiet still child. This test is not a measure of hearing sensitivity. Results typically infer whether or not further testing (electrophysiologic, tympanometry or electrophysiologic) is necessary.

These tests will aid the audiologist in making a diagnosis. Once hearing loss is confirmed, your audiologist will work with you to answer the many questions you may have as well as help your child get started on the path to better hearing.



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