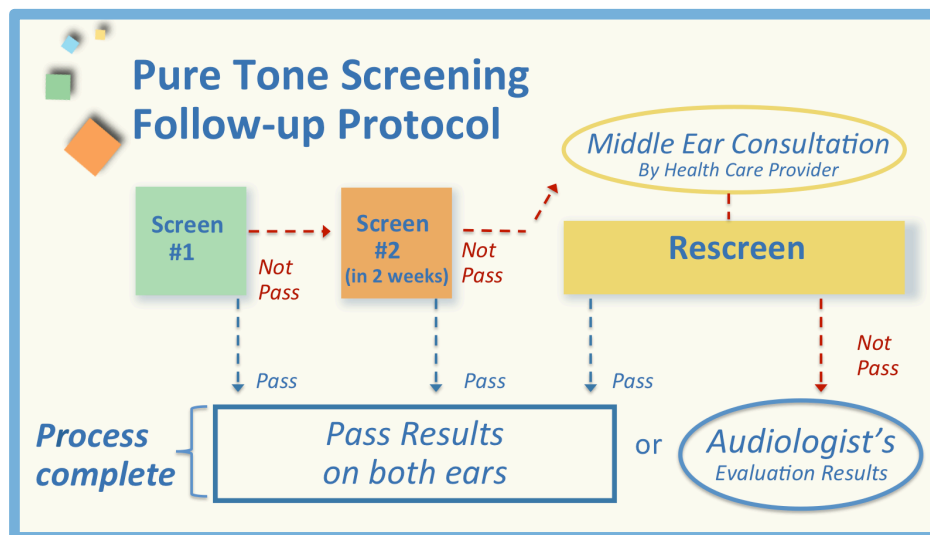


Recommended Pure Tone Screening & Follow-up Protocol (Education Setting)

A good way to get an overall understanding of the Pure Tone screening and follow-up protocol is to visualize the steps as a Flowchart.



Visual Inspection and Case History

If the ear:	The next step is to:
PASSES the visual inspection...	Document the outcome and proceed with the Pure Tone screening.
Has pits, skin tags or other minimal malformations , which do not affect the ear canal opening or placement of head phone...	Proceed with the Pure Tone screening. If the ear does not pass the Pure Tone screening, make a direct referral to a health care provider. Otherwise, note the abnormality in the child's health record and share this with the health care provider along with the screening results.
Has a blockage of the ear canal, signs of an infection or a significant malformation of the ear...	Refer to medical follow-up. Proceed with the screening only after obtaining medical clearance from the health care provider.
Has a PE Tube...	Proceed with the Screening.

Pure Tone (1 and 2) Screening in Detail

Each ear is screened independently; whenever one does not pass, proceed to the next step for that ear.

If the ear:	The next step is to:
PASSES the Pure Tone screening...	Assume that the middle ear and inner ear are functioning properly (also true for children with PE tubes). Unless there are additional concerns about the child's hearing or language development, no further action needed until the next periodic screening.
DOES NOT PASS the 1st Pure Tone screening session...	<p>Conduct 2nd Pure Tone Screening session within 2 weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the ear PASSES during the 2nd Pure Tone screening session, assume that both the middle and inner ear are functioning properly. No further action is necessary until the next periodic screening. <p>If the ear DOES NOT PASS the 2nd Pure Tone screening, refer the child to a health care provider for middle ear evaluation.</p>

Pure Tone (3) Rescreening After Medical Referral in Detail

Programs should communicate with medical providers and work together to determine the optimal time to rescreen as per the provider's diagnosis and treatment plan. **Rescreening for hearing loss after medical clearance is extremely important.**

If the ear:	The next step is to:
Is medically " cleared " (infection, fluid or blockage not present or resolved)...	Conduct the Pure Tone Rescreen immediately.
Is treated for otitis media/middle ear fluid ...	Conduct the Pure Tone Rescreen approximately 2 - 3 weeks after antibiotic treatment has been completed, allowing time for the fluid to dissipate. If the child is referred to an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist, receives PE tubes, etc., discuss with the ENT whether a hearing test (Visual Reinforcement Audiometry [VRA], Auditory Brainstem Response [ABR], Conditioned Play Audiometry [CPA] , or OAE) was conducted at the conclusion of treatment and if the child passed. If not, discuss with ENT when to conduct a Pure Tone Rescreen (usually about 1 week after PE tube placement, for example). Note that tympanometry is not a hearing test.
Is not examined by provider because parents do not follow up...	Conduct Pure Tone Rescreen in 2 weeks.

If the ear:	The next step is to:
PASSES the Pure Tone Rescreen (or an audiologist's assessment)	Assume that the middle ear and inner ear are functioning properly (also true for children with PE tubes). Unless there are additional concerns about the child's hearing or language development, no further action is needed until the next periodic screening. If a child has chronic otitis media, more frequent monitoring may be needed.
DOES NOT PASS the Pure Tone Rescreen...	Refer to a pediatric audiologist for a complete evaluation and obtain the results.