

# OAE Hearing Screening Implementation Checklist

Early childhood programs and collaborating audiologists will find this checklist helpful in planning and implementing an OAE screening and follow-up program.

1. Decide on the specific screening and follow-up protocol to be implemented.
2. Determine how often children will be screened as a matter of standard practice (at a minimum, annually). Decide how often children with risk factors and other concerns will be screened.
3. Get acquainted with your state's newborn hearing screening or Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program which has valuable information that can help with your screening program activities.
4. Select and purchase OAE equipment demonstrated to work effectively for screening children 0-3 years of age. Current cost of OAE equipment is approximately \$3400- \$4000. Also purchase disposable probe tips.
5. Identify which early childhood program staff will perform the OAE screening, and when and where the screening will be conducted.
6. Train all individuals responsible for screening and follow-up up using the *Early Identification of Hearing Loss* training video (available in the instructional package on CD-ROM or on the website listed below). The training should be supervised by an audiologist and include a review of the protocol and hands-on practice screening children.
7. Designate where the OAE equipment will be stored and who will be responsible for equipment care, maintenance, ordering supplies, coordinating use of equipment, etc.
8. Review the OAE Hearing Screening Form (see appendix) and determine whether adaptations are necessary.
9. Determine what documentation of screening results will be provided to parents, health care providers and audiologists when children refer from screening and need further evaluation.
10. Establish a two-way referral system whereby information on children not passing the screening is transmitted from the early childhood program to health care providers AND where subsequent diagnoses and treatment results are obtained. Early childhood program staff will need to rescreen children after medical clearance and facilitate referral to an audiologist or other specialist as needed.
11. Determine how each individual child's screening results, and any subsequent diagnostic or treatment information, can be thoroughly documented in the early childhood program's tracking system.
12. Monitor pass/refer rates, adherence with protocol and timelines, and follow-up on referrals. Access technical assistance and support from the audiologist when needed.
13. Provide teachers with information on how they can support children identified with hearing loss.
14. Report to your state EHDI Program any child identified with a permanent hearing loss. Your EHDI program may have additional resources to help your program and/or the child's family.

Additional resources corresponding with this checklist can be found at <http://infanthearing.org/earlychildhood/resources.html>.