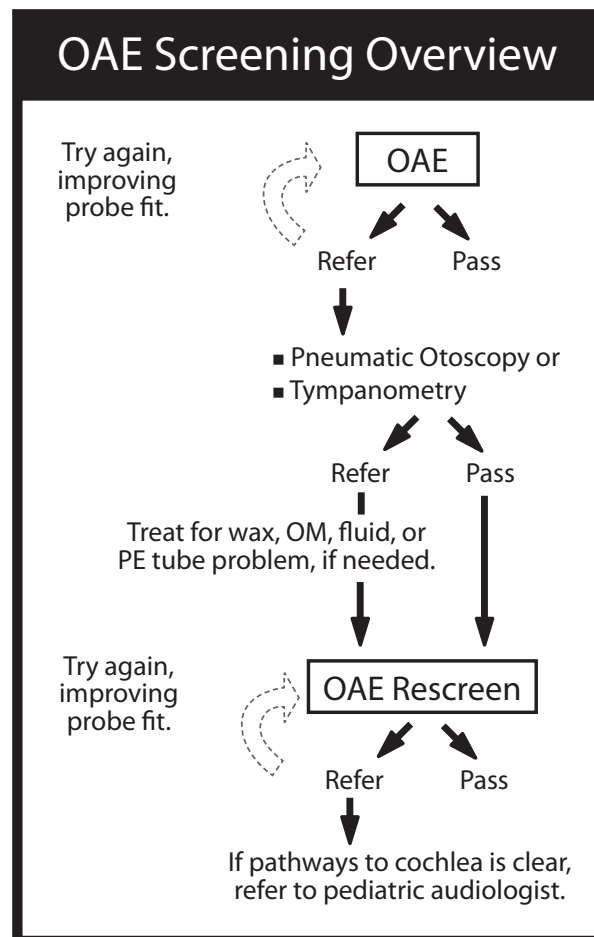


Recommended OAE Screening Protocol

An effective screening protocol helps you know what to do in response to specific screening outcomes.

Visual Inspection and Case History

If the child:	The next step is to:
PASSES the visual inspection...	Document the outcome and proceed with the OAE screening.
Has blockage of the ear canal, signs of an infection, or a malformation of either ear (pit, skin tags, etc.)...	Document the condition and proceed with the OAE screening only after obtaining medical clearance from the health care provider.
Has PE tubes...	Adjust screening equipment, if needed, and proceed with OAE screening. The ear should pass if tubes are functioning properly.



OAE Screening Steps in Detail

If the child:	The next step is to:
<p>PASSES the OAE screening on both ears...</p>	<p>Assume that both the middle ear and inner ear are functioning properly. This is true for children with PE tubes as well. Unless there are additional concerns about the child's hearing or language development, no further action is necessary until the next scheduled screening.</p>
<p>DOES NOT PASS both ears on the first OAE screening attempt...</p>	<p>Check the probe tip and opening to make sure it is not blocked with wax; select a different size tip, if needed; refit the probe and try the OAE screening again, making sure the environment and child remain relatively quiet.</p>
<p>DOES NOT PASS both ears after multiple attempts during the OAE screening session...</p>	<p>Inform the health care provider, who will perform tympanometry or pneumatic otoscopy to determine if the pathway to the cochlea is clear or if blockage or fluid is impeding the screening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If blockage, often wax, is found and removed from the ear canal, rescreen within 2 weeks (or attempt OAE again during the visit if child is cooperative). ■ If NO blockage or fluid is evident, the health care provider will decide whether to schedule the OAE rescreening within 2 weeks or refer the child directly to a pediatric audiologist. ■ If middle ear fluid, active otitis media (OM), or blockage of the PE tube is noted, a treatment plan is outlined and an OAE rescreen is scheduled.

OAE Rescreening in Detail

If the child:	The next step is to:
<p>Is treated for otitis media/middle ear fluid...</p>	<p>Wait approximately 4 – 6 weeks after treatment completion, allowing time for fluid to dissipate, before conducting the OAE rescreen. Note that rescreening after medical clearance is extremely important. The OAE equipment is able to screen the inner ear ONLY when the pathway through the middle ear is clear. If OM remains unresolved for 3 months, refer the child to a pediatric audiologist for audiological assessment.</p>
<p>DOES NOT PASS the OAE RESCREEN, and the ear canal and middle ear are clear...</p>	<p>Refer the child to a pediatric audiologist for a full audiological evaluation.</p>