

Sharing Screening Results With Parents



An important part of the hearing screening process is explaining the results to a child's parents. As in all interactions, the way in which you share the results will be individualized to meet the needs of the families you serve. The following scripts display the level of detail that is appropriate for most parents. Remember that you are presenting screening results, not diagnostic results, so detailed explanations of the ear, possible causes of hearing loss, etc., is not appropriate. This is, however, a good time to explore any concerns that parents may have about a child's hearing or language development and to ensure that further referral and assessment is completed as needed. The sample scripts can be used to communicate results from either Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) or Pure Tone Audiometric Hearing Screening. Insert the correct term in the sample scripts as indicated. Additional scripts on Page 4 provide answers to common questions and encourage parents to complete recommended next steps.

OAE/Pure Tone Screen 1 or 2

Pass – Screen 1 or 2

As one of the ways that we check each child's health and development, on <date> we screened <child name>'s hearing using <Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) / Pure Tone> screening and both ears passed. This result is [1]reliable, but if you have any concerns about <his/her> hearing or language development, we can make a referral for a full assessment. Also remember that if in the future you notice that <he/she> seems to be having difficulty hearing or speaking, we can complete another screening or make a referral for further assessment. Do you have any questions? Would you like us to send a copy of the screening results to <child name>'s health care provider?

Now let's talk about important ways you can encourage <child name> to listen and speak. This will help <him/her> be ready for school.

Discuss the ideas found on the following links:

- <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-milestones/toddler-language-development-milestones/toddler-listening/>
- <http://www.pbs.org/wholechild/parents/talk.html>

Not Pass/Refer -- Screen 1

As one of the ways that we check each child's health and development, on <date> we screened <child name>'s hearing using <Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) / Pure Tone> screening. On this first screening, <child name> did not pass:

- *either ear.*
- *the right ear but did pass the left ear.*
- *the left ear but did pass the right ear.*

This doesn't mean that <he/she> has a hearing loss, but we do need to do another screening in two weeks. Many children pass this second screening but some need to go to the health care provider to check if there is a middle ear infection or other condition. Have you noticed if <child name> has been having any problems with hearing or an ear infection? We'll schedule the screening and let you know the results as soon as it is completed. Do you have any questions?

Not Pass/Could Not Test – Screen 1

As one of the ways that we check each child's health and development, on <date> we attempted to screen <child name>'s hearing using <Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) / Pure Tone>, but we were not able to complete the screening. <Child name> was <briefly describe child's reaction>. We are planning to try again within the next two weeks.

It will be helpful if you could help us make this a pleasant experience for <child name>. You can do this by <list activities: watch DVD, touch ear, no mention of hurt, etc.>. [2]

Do you have any questions?

Not Pass/Refer -- Screen 2

On <date>, we screened <child name>'s hearing again. On this screening, <child name> did not pass

- o either ear.*
- o the right ear but did pass the left ear.*
- o the left ear but did pass the right ear.*

It is important to have <child name> checked by a health care provider as soon as possible to see if any medical condition, such as a middle ear infection, could be causing this result. Please make an appointment right away and let me know when <child name> will be seen. Here is a referral letter for you to take to the health care provider for a middle ear evaluation that includes <his/her> hearing screening results. We will also send a copy of this referral to the health care provider. Do you have any questions?

Not Pass/Could Not Test – Screen 2

On <date> we tried to screen <child name>'s hearing again, but we were not able to complete the screening. <Child name> was <briefly describe child's reaction>. We will need to have <child name> checked by the health care provider as soon as possible to see if any medical condition, such as a middle ear infection, could be causing this response. Please make the appointment right away and let me know when <child name> will be seen. Here is a referral letter to the health care provider for a middle ear evaluation that includes <his/her> hearing screening results. We will also send a copy of this referral to the health care provider. Do you have any questions?

Middle Ear Consultation

No Condition or Disorder Detected from Middle Ear Consultation

Thank you for taking <child name> to see the health care provider for the recommended middle ear evaluation. From the report, it seems that the health care provider completed the <otoscopy / pneumatic otoscopy / tympanometry> exams and did not find any conditions or disorders in the middle ear system. This medical exam only checked how one part of the ear is working but it didn't check hearing, so we will be conducting another <Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) / Pure Tone> hearing screening. Many children pass this next screening, but some do not and need to see an audiologist to get a complete hearing test. We'll let you know the results of the next hearing screening right away and if any further testing needs to be done. Do you have any questions?

Condition or Disorder Detected from Middle Ear Consultation

Thank you for taking <child name> to see the health care provider for the recommended middle ear evaluation. From the report, it seems that the health care provider completed the <otoscopy / pneumatic otoscopy / tympanometry> exam and found a <condition / disorder>. What are the plans for treating this <condition / disorder>? When will <child name> see the health care provider again for follow-up?

We will be conducting another <Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) / Pure Tone> hearing screening after the <condition / disorder> has been treated. Many children pass this next screening, but some do not and need to see an audiologist to get a complete hearing test. We'll let you know the results of the next hearing screening and if any further testing needs to be done. Do you have any questions?

OAE/Pure Tone Screen 3 (Rescreen after middle ear consultation)

Pass

On <date> we rescreened <child name>'s hearing using <Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) / Pure Tone> screening and both ears passed. This result is [3]reliable, but if you have any concerns about <his/her> hearing or language development, we can make a referral for a full assessment. Also remember that if in the future you notice that <he/she> seems to be having difficulty hearing or speaking, we can complete another screening or make a referral for further assessment. Do you have any questions? Would you like us to send a copy of the screening results to <child name>'s health care provider?

Now let's talk about important ways you can encourage <child name> to listen and speak. This will help <him/her> be ready for school.

Discuss the ideas found on the following links:

- <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-milestones/toddler-language-development-milestones/toddler-listening/>
- <http://www.pbs.org/wholechild/parents/talk.html>

Not Pass/Refer or Could Not Test

On <date>, we attempted to rescreen <child name>'s hearing using <Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) / Pure Tone> screening and <child name>

- *did not pass either ear.*
- *did not pass the right ear but did pass the left ear.*
- *did not pass the left ear but did pass the right ear.*
- *could not be screened because <briefly describe child's reaction>.*

The next step is to have <child name> evaluated by a pediatric audiologist, a specialist who tests hearing. We will work with you to find a nearby audiologist and to coordinate this with <child name>'s health care provider. We will also send a copy of this referral to the health care provider. Do you have any questions?

Additional Scripts to Encourage Parents to Follow-up

Question – My child passed the newborn [4] hearing screening. Why does he/she need to have another screening?

*Answer – **Hearing can change, even during childhood. A periodic hearing screening allows any changes to be caught early.***

Question – Why is it important to follow-up when my child didn't pass this screening?

*Answer – **Hearing loss can be easily missed. There's a lot that can be done if your child needs help.***

Question - How can my child have a hearing loss? My child reacts to sound.

*Answer – **There are different degrees of hearing loss, just like vision. Your child may hear some sounds but not others. It's really important for your child's development that he/she hears all of the sounds of speech clearly.***

Question – Wouldn't it be better to wait to see if it will go away?

*Answer – **It's hard to face the idea that something might be wrong. It's better to find out now because there's a lot that you can do to help your child if there is a hearing loss. And there are a lot of people who can help, too.***