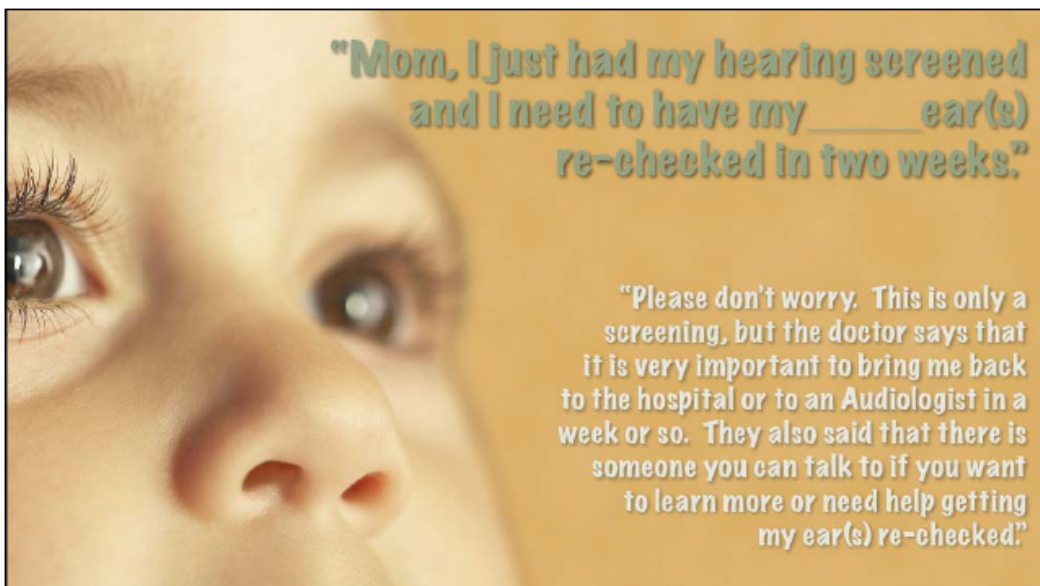


Guide By Your Side Follow-Through Program: Talking Tips for Nurses



- ▶ The Guide By Your Side Follow-Through program allows families, whose newborn did not pass a hearing screening (was Referred for further testing), to connect with another parent who can answer screening or follow-up questions they might have after they get home with their baby, and will encourage the family to attend the follow-up appointment.
- ▶ Present this program at the same time you inform families that their newborn did not pass the hearing screening. Add the results of the screen to the Follow-Through card (pictured above). If you have scheduled their follow-up appointment with them, fill in that information too.
- ▶ Please tell them, "We refer all of our newborns who need further hearing testing to the Guide By Your Side Follow-Through program. Connie Stevens, program coordinator and parent of a daughter with hearing loss, will call you to discuss the program. After you talk with her you can decide if you want to participate." Point out that **they must sign the bottom** to indicate that they are giving their consent to be contacted by the Parent Guide.
- ▶ Ask or help the family fill out the card with the **best** way to contact them and with clear and accurate information. The family keeps the large portion of the card and the hospital **immediately** sends the small portion to the Parent Guide.
- ▶ Remind families that this is a Program run by the State of Wisconsin and that they will not receive solicitations or unwanted contacts.
- ▶ Explain to families that there may be temporary issues that caused the baby to refer (i.e. vernix or middle ear fluid) on the screening; however, it could be a sign of a more permanent hearing loss. The sooner they find out for sure, the better off their baby will be. Without causing undue anxiety, it is important to stress this "sooner the better" message.
- ▶ To learn more about this program, contact Connie Stevens, GBYS Follow-Through Coordinator at (608) 266-0917 or connie.stevens@wisconsin.gov.
- ▶ Thank you!

