

# Implementing OAE Hearing Screening and Follow-up with Young Children

## Web Class Overview



**Purpose:** Prepare early care and education providers to successfully implement evidence-based Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) hearing screening and follow-up practices. This practical, hands-on skill-development class, delivered during four web-based sessions, is intended for individuals serving in programs that are committed to providing OAE hearing screening to young children. By the end of this Web Class, participants will be able to:

- a. Plan and implement an OAE hearing screening program
- b. Explain how OAE screening works
- c. Conduct OAE screenings on young children
- d. Outline the necessary follow-up steps when a child does not pass the OAE screening
- e. Access resources for tracking children through the completion of the OAE screening and follow-up protocol
- f. Access additional tools and resources that support successful OAE hearing screening program development and quality improvement

**Who should participate:** Early Head Start and Head Start Health and Disability specialists and other early care and education staff responsible for conducting health, sensory and/or developmental screenings. Participants should be committed to screening the children they serve using OAE technology (obtaining parental consent if needed) as a part of their participation in the class. It is strongly recommended that participants screen as many children as possible at the conclusion of the last Web Class session. Implementing program-wide screening following the training is optimal so that the skills acquired during the sessions can be applied and reinforced immediately upon class completion.

**Cost:** FREE

**Class format and access:** The Web Class consists of four, live web-based sessions on pre-determined dates lasting approximately 60 minutes each. Participants must have **high speed internet access on a computer** (no tablets or smart phones as they do not support adequate live video). Participants must also be able to **call into a toll-free telephone number if needed** from the same location where they have internet access.

**Prerequisites:** This Web Class is a hands-on, practical skill-development class. Before registering at [kidshearing.org](http://kidshearing.org), it is essential that you:

- ✓ Verify that you are available during the scheduled times for each of the four, live Web Class sessions.

- ✓ View video tutorial [Modules 1-4](#) (total viewing time, 14 min) prior to the first Web Class session. This background information is essential. These modules will help you determine if you and/or your program are ready to adopt OAE hearing screening practices and participate in the live Web Class. The first step in developing an OAE screening program is NOT the Web Class. Make sure you have completed the necessary planning items before enrolling. Also be sure to share these modules with administrators and others in your program who need to have input into planning and sustaining OAE screening--including staff who are responsible for documenting and tracking screening outcomes. You may want to invite these individuals to join you in Web Class Session 1 that will provide a more detailed overview.
- ✓ Verify that you have access to at least one OAE hearing screening unit by the date of the first class session (and provide name and manufacturer of the device). The unit should have been purchased or re-calibrated within the last 12 months to ensure proper functioning. Participants may share screening units, however, we recommend no more than four people per unit. If you need assistance in selecting and purchasing OAE equipment, visit: [kidshearing.org/resources/select-oea](http://kidshearing.org/resources/select-oea).
- ✓ Verify that in addition to having an OAE screening unit you also have the following screening supplies:
  - Disposable probe covers (tips) of varied sizes for children. (Because some children will need to be screened more than once, especially as screeners are gaining experience, plan to have approximately 50% more covers than the number of children you intend to screen. For example, if you serve 100 children, you should have 150 covers on hand.)
  - Disposable **adult-size** probe covers (tips). (Important! Before screening children, you will need to practice screening yourself and other adults. After you have learned to screen, you will continue to need adult-size probe covers in order to periodically test the equipment on your own or another adult's ears. Note that this rationale may be required when requisitioning adult size probe covers.)
- ✓ Verify that you will be able to screen at least five children within two days of Session #3 and a larger number of children following completion of the Web Class. If consent is needed, obtain that in advance and make sure teachers and other staff know about your plans and how they can support your efforts. Find written information for parents at [kidshearing.org/resources/prepare](http://kidshearing.org/resources/prepare) that you can adapt for your program needs.

**Audiologist or experienced OAE screener partner:** Although not required, it is strongly encouraged that you partner with either an audiologist or experienced OAE screener who can provide hands-on assistance in the development of your OAE screening practices. This person can help you plan, select equipment (if needed), answer questions, demonstrate screening

techniques, and observe and provide feedback on screening skills. If you need assistance in identifying a partner audiologist, visit: [kidshearing.org/resources/find-audiologist](http://kidshearing.org/resources/find-audiologist).

**Practice Exercise Assignments:** Four hands-on Practice Exercises, one after each live Web Session, will help participants achieve proficiency in OAE screening and skills for developing and maintaining a successful OAE screening and follow-up program. Participants will submit an electronic *Practice Exercise Survey* documenting their activities after completing each Practice Exercise:

Practice Exercise 1 (approx. 30 min):

- a) Prepare equipment and screening supplies for next session.
- b) Access Video Tutorial Modules 1 – 4.
- c) Identify relevant implementation resources on [kidshearing.org](http://kidshearing.org).

Practice Exercise 2 (approx. 30 min):

- a) View a short video demonstrating the brand-specific functions of the OAE equipment being used.
- b) Practice screening self.
- c) Practice screening at least four other adults.
- d) Repeat several screenings, altering screening conditions, to understand the factors that facilitate or interfere with the screening process.

Practice Exercise 3 (approx. 30 min)

- a) Practice accessing several resources from [kidshearing.org](http://kidshearing.org) to assist with implementing the recommended follow-up protocol, accurately documenting results, and efficiently communicating referrals.
- b) Identify and screen at least five children similar in age to the larger program population being served and record the ear-specific results for each child.

Practice Exercise 4 (approx. 15 min)

Practice accessing resources from [kidshearing.org](http://kidshearing.org) related to:

- a) Preparing children, parents, teachers and others who may be assisting with screening.
- b) Protocol Guides and Forms.
- c) Sharing Results: Letters & Scripts.
- d) Tracking child progress and monitoring program quality.

**Certificate of Completion:** Participants who attend all live Web Class sessions, perform all *Practice Exercises*, and submit all *Practice Exercise Surveys*, will receive a Certificate of Completion.