

Environmental Noise Level Check

Ages

All ages

Purpose

To ensure the environment is quiet enough to perform pure tone audiometry screening.

An environmental noise level check is a recommended substitution in lieu of performing ambient noise level measurements as most local agencies and schools do not have such equipment.

Description

Perform pure tone audiometry threshold screening on another person with known normal hearing.

Equipment

Pure tone audiometer

Facilities

Quiet room or area free from visual distractions, where you are planning to perform hearing screening

Procedure

1. Establish thresholds at 10dB below the screening level, 1000, 2000, 4000, and 6000 Hz at 10dB and 500 Hz at 15dB.
2. Screeners who do not have training and skills to perform threshold screening can perform this check with pure tone sweep screening instead.
 - a. If a screener is performing pure tone sweep screening in lieu of threshold screening, they should complete the process twice.
3. Do not use the area for screening if a person with normal hearing is unable to detect 1000 ,2000, 4000 Hz, 6000 Hz at 10dB and 500 Hz at 15dB
4. If the only frequency not audible in the screening environment is 500 Hz, then omit the 500 Hz level from today's screening protocol.

Considerations

The screener should maintain awareness of noise level throughout the screening procedure and avoid excess noise within the screening area including:

- Talking
- Paper shuffling
- Movement of desks and furniture

Avoid areas near:

- Fans or air conditioners
- Hall traffic (reroute if possible)
- Playground or street traffic
- Group activities (i.e. music, free play)
- Bathrooms
- Lunchrooms
- Office equipment (i.e. copy machines)
- Soft drink machines
- Refrigerators
- Open windows

Keep the screening room uncluttered and free of visual distractions:

- Avoid facing the child toward windows or open doors
- Avoid mirrors or other reflective surfaces

**Performing threshold screening requires advanced training that may be beyond the skill of some screeners.*



Maternal Child Health section
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For questions about this document or to obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3760 or email health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us.

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