

# OAE Screening Tips: Newborn Hearing Screening

Minnesota Newborn  
Screening Program



1

Probe fit is the most important step in accurate hearing screening! A good probe fit will ensure a strong signal is sent to the baby's ear and reduce the number of false positive refer results.

Be sure the baby is in a quiet environment. Having the baby sleep through the screen is ideal.

***\*\*Probe tips may vary in size and color\*\****



2

Before inserting the probe, massage the ear for about 10 -15 seconds. Pull the pinna (outer ear) up and out to help open the ear canal. Newborn ears can be full of sticky debris.



3

Pull up and back on the pinna to fully open the ear canal for a good probe fit. Use firm pressure to insert the probe into the ear far enough to obtain a good seal. Twisting the probe slightly as you insert it can help ensure a good, tight fit.



4

Release the pinna after you insert the probe. This lets the ear canal fall snugly around the probe. Do not continue to hold the probe while you are performing the screen!



# DO NOT



**DO NOT** place the probe box and wires on the baby. Clip the probe box above baby's head or on the bassinet and make sure the wires run up and over baby's head.



**DO NOT** simply place the probe in the ear.

Use firm pressure to ensure a good, tight fit.

Remember, the probes are designed so that they cannot hurt the baby's ears!



**DO NOT** hold the probe while you are administering the screening test.

# DO



**DO** spend several seconds massaging and stretching baby's ear to open up the ear canal.



**DO** use **FIRM** pressure to insert the probe.

The probe needs to be far enough into the ear to obtain a tight seal.

You cannot put the probe in too far and hurt the baby's ears.



**DO** place your hand on baby to prevent squirming and to comfort baby while placing the probe.