

## Hearing Screening

During the month of October we will be screening your child's hearing. Our hearing screening consists of three parts:

The first part is referred to as a Visual Inspection. This is where the nurse/speech therapist looks into your child's ear with an otoscope to see if there is anything in the ear canal which would impair your child's hearing; for example, excessive earwax. They are also looking for conditions affecting the ear drums such as redness due to infection or scarring from repeated infections. If your child has had tubes inserted in the ear drum, we will be able to see them if they are still in place.

The second part is referred to as Impedance Testing. This is a very simple procedure which requires very little participation on the part of the child. All he or she needs to do is sit quietly while a rubber-tipped probe is placed at the opening of the ear canal. This is not painful!! Impedance testing tells us the condition of the middle ear system. For example, if your child has fluid in his or her middle ear cavity which can cause a hearing loss, the impedance test will indicate this. It will also indicate a normal middle ear condition.

The third part of the hearing screening is referred to as Pure Tone Testing. We are sure that at one time you probably have experienced pure tone testing yourself. During pure tone testing, ear phones are worn and the child is asked to indicate if he/she hears the sound in one and then the other ear. Pure tone testing assesses the child's ability to hear different frequencies of sound at a certain loudness level. If your child indicates that he/she hears them, then we are generally able to rule out certain types of hearing losses. If not, then further hearing testing will be recommended.

Because of the age of the children, we realize that repeated testing may be needed to insure accuracy. We intend to inform you of the results right after the screening as well as our recommendations.