



# Parents as Teachers

## Guidance for Vision and Hearing Screening

### Vision Screening for Children 3 - 6 Months of Age

A Parents as Teacher's essential requirement is that children be screened within 90 days of enrollment. This may mean that some infants will be just 3 months old at the time of their initial screening. The following recommendations will guide you in completing the PAT Health Record for hearing and vision.

- The newborn hearing screening results will satisfy the hearing screening requirement for the first 6 months of life as long as the child passed. Try to get validation of the results. If the child received a refer result then the family should return to the hospital for a rescreen. Document these results on the Health Record.
- For vision screening a doctor's written statement regarding the quality of vision will be adequate for an infant 3-6 months old. Several of the tests on the vision screen can be performed with a 3 month old. At 4 months, reach for objects can be added. See the chart below for details.

Age of infant	Vision tests to administer
3 months or 12 weeks	Blink reflex; pupillary response; corneal light reflex; tracking
4 months or 16 weeks	Blink reflex; pupillary response; reach; corneal light reflex; tracking
6 months and older	Pupillary response; reach; corneal light reflex; tracking; cover/uncover

### OAE Hearing Screening with Children 6 Months to 3 Years of Age

Otoacoustic emissions (OAE) hearing screening is an objective, reliable method of hearing screening for children birth to age three. It is also useful when screening children with disabilities or those who are English language learners. Proper training and preparation is necessary to implement OAE screening in a way that ensures a positive, successful experience for everyone. Plan on a 6- to 12-month timeframe for full implementation, depending on the resources available. Information and guidance can be found at [www.kidshearing.org](http://www.kidshearing.org). Go to the Early Head Start side and then click "Get Started." Be sure to download the 'Implementation Checklist.' Choosing the proper equipment as well as having staff properly trained will make for a successful hearing screening component.

You may be interested in the article, [Updating Hearing Screening Practices in Early Childhood Settings](#) for additional rationale on OAE screening.

Contact Ann Haffner at Parents as Teachers with questions. ([Ann.Haffner@ParentsAsTeachers.org](mailto:Ann.Haffner@ParentsAsTeachers.org))