

**Building Early Childhood Systems:
A Collaboration Between New Jersey EHDI, New Jersey Head
Start/Early Head Start, and Montclair State University
Communication Sciences and Disorders Program**

2022 National EHDI Conference

Thank you for being here with us today!

MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY



Presenters

Ariel Meltzer, MA, MS, LSW

New Jersey EHDI Coordinator
New Jersey Department of Health

Maryrose McInerney, PhD, CCC-A

Associate Professor
Communication Sciences and Disorders Program
Montclair State University

Nancy G. Schneider, MA, CCC-A, FAAA

Audiologist
New Jersey Department of Health

Authors

Janet Koehnke, PhD, CCC-A, ASHA-Fellow

Chairperson, Communication Sciences and
Communication Sciences and Disorders Program
Montclair State University

Faith Mogila, ScD, CCC-A

Clinical Director, Communication Sciences
Communication Sciences and Disorders Program
Montclair State University

Suzanne Burnette, MA

Director
New Jersey Head Start

Project Background

NJ EHDl HRSA Deliverable

In the 2021-2022 HRSA grant year, NJ EHDl worked on collaborating with NJ Head Start programs on streamlining their federally required initial hearing screening services to all children within 45 days of enrollment. Collaboration included partnering with Montclair State University (MSU) audiology and speech-language pathology graduate program to establish evidence-based and accessible screening programs for local and county-based Head Start programs. In addition, New Jersey EHDl provided training to screeners of children in Early Head Start (birth to 3 years) on reporting results using the New Jersey Immunization Information Systems (NJlIS) EHDl module

Diverse Entities Working Together

- **Communication:** We brought together stakeholder groups for information sharing, planning, and partnering.
- **Access:** We facilitated Head Start agencies' to access and utilize appropriate hearing screening protocol and referrals for children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start
- **Systems:** We are in the process of planning future partnerships and developing cross agency state systems for screening hearing in early childhood

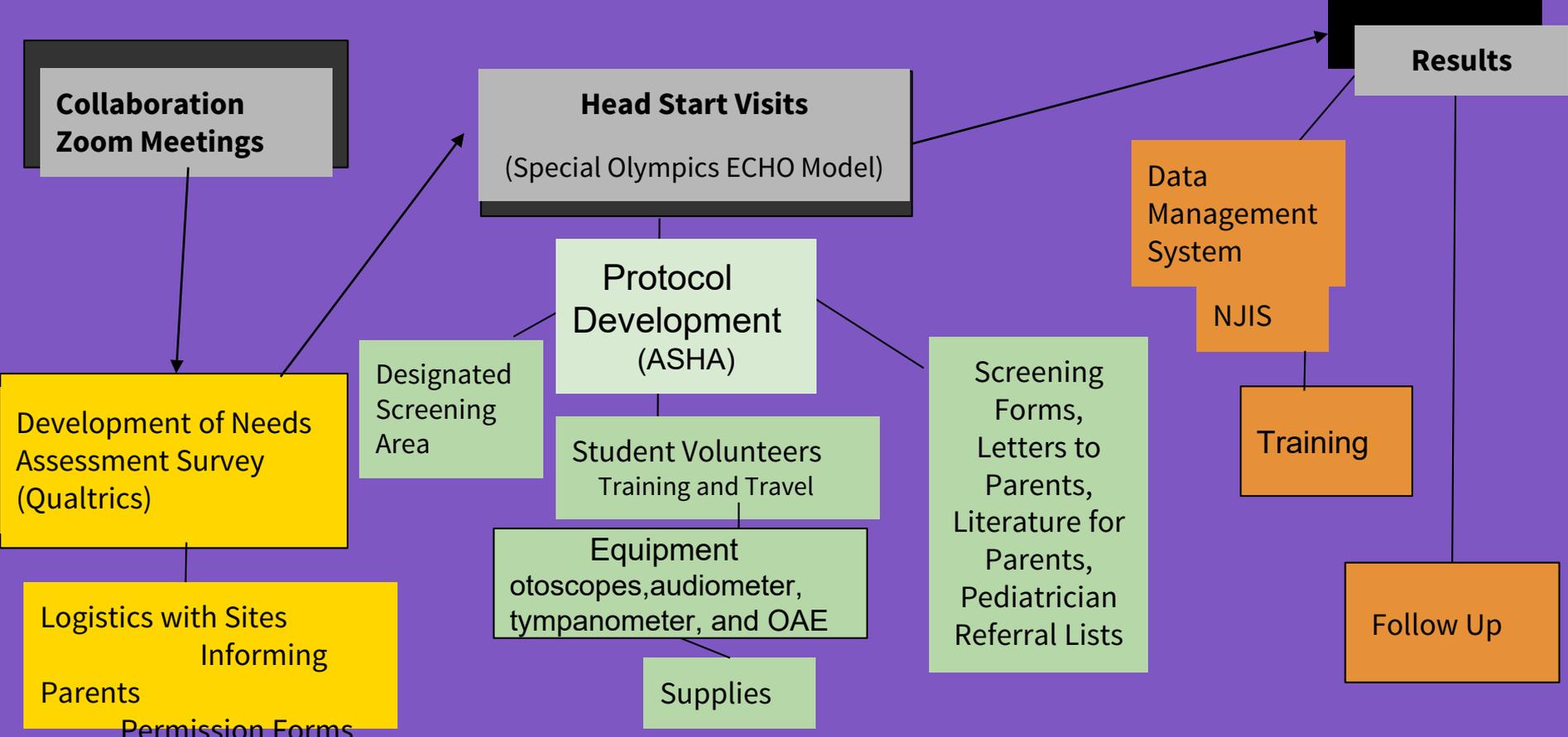
Considerations for Establishing Collaborative Head Start Hearing Screenings

- Providing an overview of proposed hearing screening project to Head Start Administrators and to NJ's sole audiology graduate program
- Review study “A Multi-State Study of The Effectiveness of Hearing Screenings Done With Preschool Aged Children” 2018, Goldstein, A. and McInerney, M.
 - Developed Qualtrics Survey for Head Start Directors
- Outreach to State licensing board for audiologists and speech-language pathologists
 - Obtain statutory clarification regarding pediatric hearing screening administration at a federal agency venue (e.g., Head Start) by non-licensed individuals
 - To determine if licensed audiologists or speech-language pathologists can train unlicensed support personnel to conduct pediatric hearing screening

Considerations for Establishing Collaborative Head Start Hearing Screenings

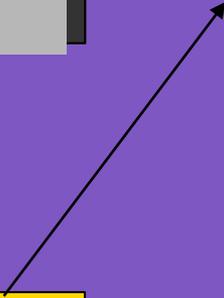
- Collaboratively determining sites for first phase of project
 - Geographic areas as of greatest need
 - Locations that were in close proximity to participating graduate school program
 - Venues with acoustically sound environments for screening administration
- Ensuring availability of licensed audiologists to supervise screening activities
- Verification that screening equipment (that has undergone manufacturer performance review within the year) is available for each screening location
 - OAE; tympanometry and portable pure tone audiometers
 - How many pieces of equipment will be needed

Project Logistics - Planning for Success



Project Logistics - Planning for Success

**Collaboration
Zoom Meetings**



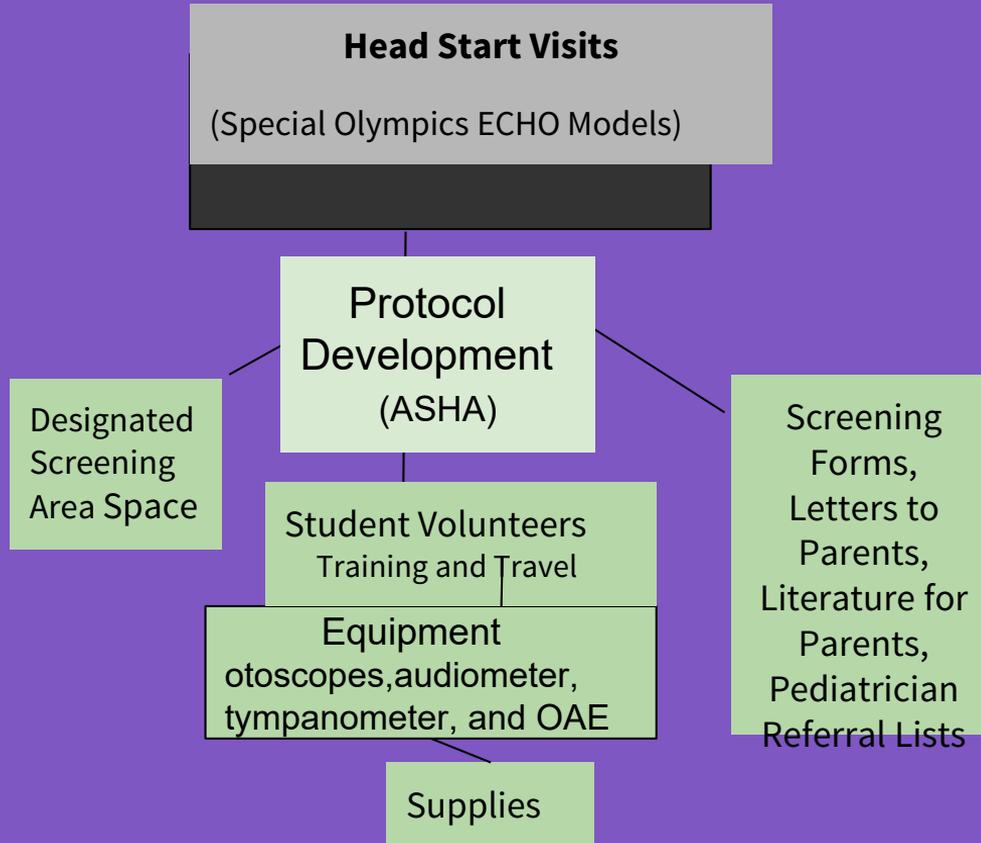
Development of Needs
Assessment Survey
(Qualtrics)



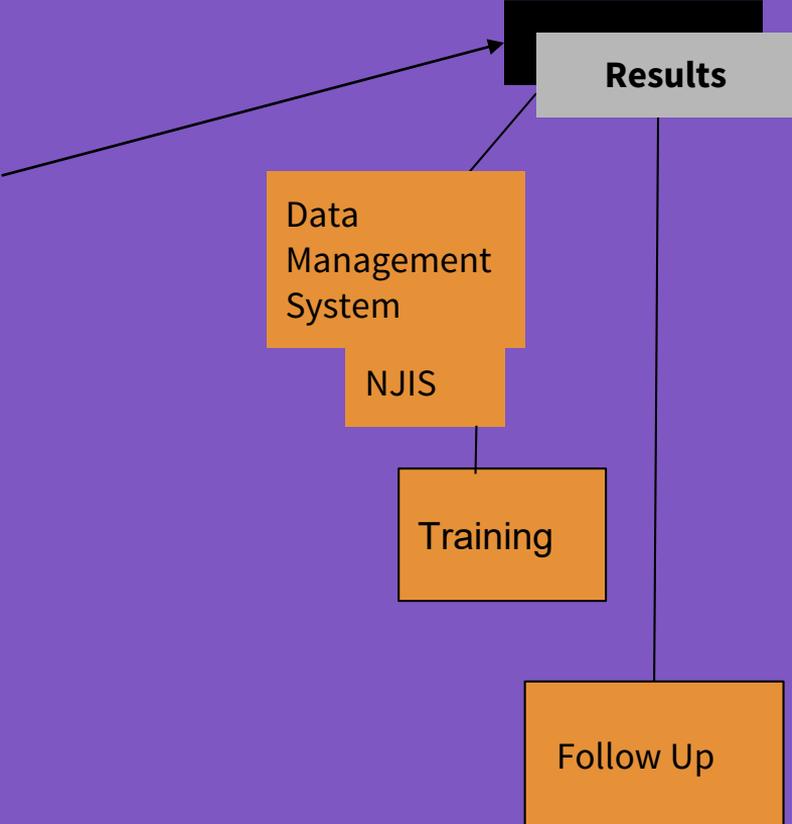
Logistics with Sites
Informing
Parents

Permission Forms

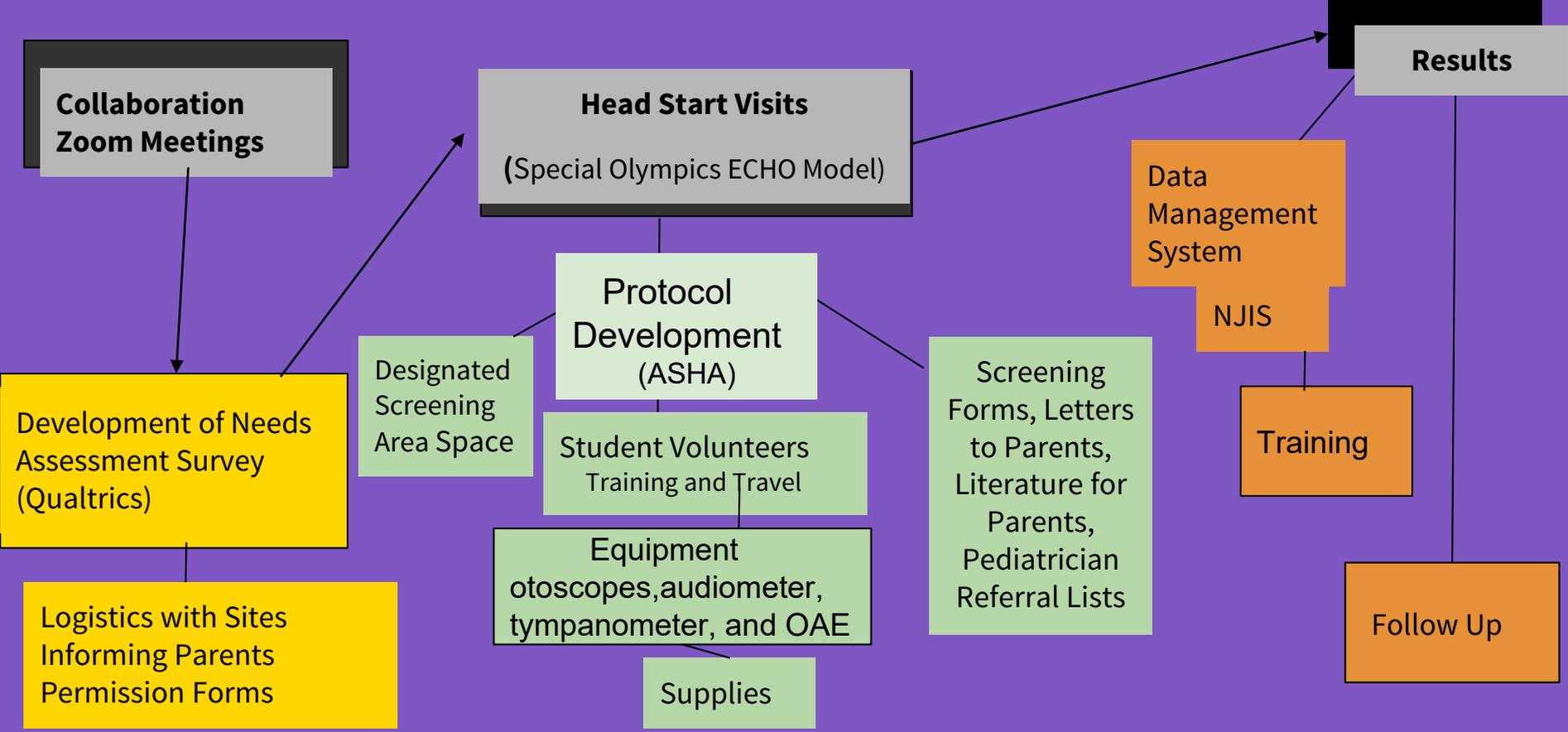
Project Logistics - Planning for Success



Project Logistics - Planning for Success



Project Logistics - Planning for Success



Needs Assessment Survey for Head Start Offices Throughout NJ

- Collaboratively crafted online survey developed to determine knowledge, needs and interest in participating in the NJ Head Start; MSU and NJ EHDI Screening Project

As part of a collaborative initiative between The New Jersey Early Head Start (NJ EHS) Program, The New Jersey Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (NJ EHDI) Program and The Center for Audiology and Speech Language Pathology at Montclair State University (MSU), we are requiring that each EHS Program in New Jersey complete the following survey regarding their federally required hearing screening services (45 CFR 1304.20(b)). This survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will provide extremely useful information to guide NJ EHS, NJ EHDI and MSU on our collaborative endeavor to enhance hearing screening and follow-up services to children from birth through age 3 who participate in your EHS program and all other EHS programs throughout New Jersey.

Collaborative Head Start Hearing Screenings

- Development of bilingual hearing screening materials for parents
 - Results/recommendations
 - Importance of hearing screening and follow-up
 - Locations of pediatric audiology sites for follow-up testing
- Provision of a variety of toys (for play audiometry) and objects of interest to young children to hold their interest during OAE and/or tympanometry screening
- Request names and DOBs of all children to be screened
 - To prepopulate screening forms
 - To review newborn hearing screening and, if applicable, diagnostic audiologic evaluation results

Screening Protocol & Screening Form

ASHA 110701



MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
1515 Broad Street, Building B
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
Voice: 973-655-3752
Fax: 973-655-3406

Follow-up Screening Form for Head Start

Child's name: _____ Mother's full name at child's birth: _____
 Date of Birth: _____ Date of Test: _____
 Screening site: _____

Otoscopy		Otoacoustic Emissions			
		DPOAE or TEOAE (circle test completed)			
Right ear	Left ear	Right ear	Left ear	Right ear	Left ear
Clear <input type="checkbox"/>	Clear <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>
Partially blocked <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially blocked <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Blocked <input type="checkbox"/>	Blocked <input type="checkbox"/>	Cannot achieve seal <input type="checkbox"/>	Cannot achieve seal <input type="checkbox"/>	Cannot achieve seal <input type="checkbox"/>	Cannot achieve seal <input type="checkbox"/>
Student refused <input type="checkbox"/>	Student refused <input type="checkbox"/>	Probe blocked by cerumen <input type="checkbox"/>	Probe blocked by cerumen <input type="checkbox"/>	Probe blocked by cerumen <input type="checkbox"/>	Probe blocked by cerumen <input type="checkbox"/>
		Excessive noise <input type="checkbox"/>			
		Student refused <input type="checkbox"/>			

Pure Tone Screening (20 dB HL)

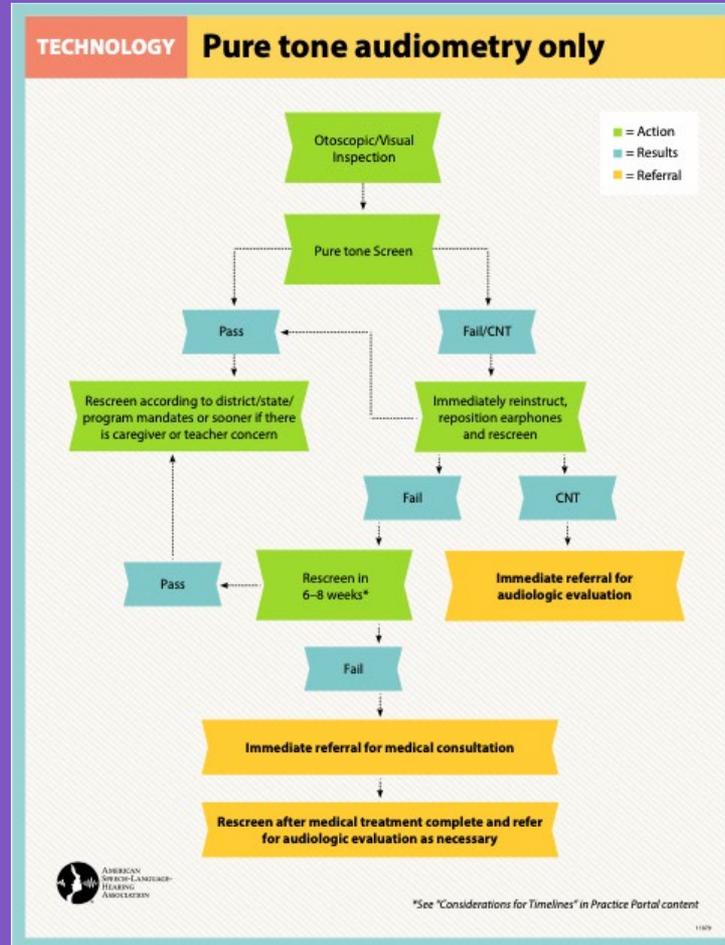
	500 Hz	1000 Hz	2000 Hz	4000 Hz	Comments
Right ear	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Could not condition to respond <input type="checkbox"/>
	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Excessive Noise <input type="checkbox"/>
					Student refused <input type="checkbox"/>
Left ear	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Could not condition to respond <input type="checkbox"/>
	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Excessive Noise <input type="checkbox"/>
					Student refused <input type="checkbox"/>

Recommended follow-up care: Ear wax removal
 See the doctor to check ears
 See audiologist for hearing test

Letter to send to parent(s)/guardian(s): Letter 1 - Pass
 Letter 2 - Follow-up needed
 Letter 3 - Could not test

Signature: _____
 NJ Audiology License #: _____

10/10/21



Literature for Parents

Common Questions About Children and Hearing

Q. My child passed their newborn hearing screening. Why do they have to have another screening?

A. Hearing can change, even during childhood. A periodic hearing screening helps catch any changes early.

Q. Why is it important to follow-up when my child did not pass this screen?

A. It is easy to miss hearing loss. There is a lot that can be done if your needs help.

Q. How can my child have a hearing loss? My child reacts to sound.

A. There are different amounts of loss, just like vision. Your child may hear some sounds and not others. It is really important for your child to hear all speech clearly.

Q. Wouldn't it be better to wait and see if it will go away?

A. No. It is better to find out now because there are lots of things that can help your child if there is a hearing loss. There are a lot of people who can help your child.

Preguntas Comunes Sobre Audición en Niños

Q. Mi hijo pasó la prueba de audición para recién nacidos. ¿Por qué tienen que hacerse otra prueba?

A. La audición puede cambiar, incluso durante la niñez. Un examen de audición periódico ayuda a detectar cualquier cambio temprano.

Q. ¿Por qué es importante hacer un seguimiento cuando mi hijo no pasó esta prueba?

A. Podemos hacer mucho para ayudar a su hijo si tiene pérdida auditiva.

Q. Como puede tener pérdida auditiva si mi hijo reacciona al sonido?

A. Hay diferentes cantidades de pérdida, al igual que la visión. Su hijo puede escuchar algunos sonidos y no otros. Es muy importante que su hijo escuche todos los sonidos con claridad.

Q. ¿No sería mejor esperar y ver si desaparece?

A. Es importante ayudar a su hijo lo antes posible para que pueda ayudarlos a lo mejor.

Lo que los padres necesitan saber acerca del tamizaje auditivo para niños pequeños

- ❖ Cada padre debe hacer que su niño se revise la audición de su bebé al nacer y regularmente durante la niñez temprana. No podemos ver la pérdida de audición y los niños pequeños no pueden decirnos si están oyendo todos los sonidos importantes del mundo que les rodea.
- ❖ Un niño con una pérdida auditiva severa puede oír sólo sonidos fuertes. Si no se detecta a tiempo, la incapacidad para escuchar el lenguaje hablado puede ser devastadora para el desarrollo del niño.
- ❖ Un niño con audición limitada puede mirar hacia la voz del padre, pero puede perder muchas palabras y sonidos. Una pérdida auditiva leve no identificada o una pérdida en un oído, puede hacer que sea difícil para un niño seguir instrucciones y aprender.

Afortunadamente, los padres y profesionales pueden ayudar a los niños que necesitan ayuda. El primer paso simple es proveerles de cuidado de la salud preñon atención, respuestas al sonido. Si hay alguna preocupación, pediatras (especialista en audición). Además, los tamizaje auditivo hablo.

- ❖ El tamizaje con e puede hacerse e despierto. Una i Esta envía una f detecta la respu

www.kidshearing.org

Estos métodos de tamizaje pueden ayudarnos adicional. Cuando un niño no pasa, una visit temporales como un lapso de cerumen en el estribo, es importante saber que la mayoría tamizajes auditivos. Asegúrese de que se h resultado los problemas comunes. Si el niño i audiológico pediátrico. Si un niño tiene una p inasarse inmediatamente.

¡El tamizaje a aprender a f hablar que s sea suficiente! Más infome

What Parents Need to Know about Hearing Screening for Young Children

Every parent should have their baby's hearing checked at birth and regularly during early childhood. We can't see a hearing loss and young children can't tell us if they're hearing all the important sounds in the world around them.

- ❖ A child with a severe hearing loss may hear only very loud sounds. If not identified early, the inability to hear spoken language can be devastating to a child's development.
- ❖ A child with limited hearing may turn toward a parent's voice, but miss many words and speech sounds. An undiagnosed mild hearing loss, or a loss in one ear, can make it difficult for a child to follow instructions and learn.

Fortunately, parents and professionals can work together to find and help the children who need it. The first step is for parents, caregivers, teachers and health care providers to pay close attention to a child's language development and responses to sound. If there are any concerns, the child should be evaluated by a pediatric audiologist (hearing specialist). In addition, all young children should have the benefit of reliable hearing screening.

- ❖ Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) screening can be done with a earbud, is placed in the ear. This sends a series of soft clicks or through a tiny microphone.

Pure Tone Screening can be used with many children over 3 years of age. Headphones are placed over the child's ears and the child is asked to respond each time a sound is heard.

These screening methods can help us to identify children who need further evaluation. When a child doesn't pass, a visit to a health care provider can often resolve temporary problems such as a wax buildup in the ear canal or a middle ear infection. It is important to know, though, that most hearing common problems have been resolved. Make sure another screening is done after subsequent as essential. If a child still does not pass, referral to a pediatric audiologist is recommended. If a child has a permanent hearing loss, effective intervention should be started immediately.

Hearing screening is also a great reminder that children learn through communication! The more that parents talk and prompt a child to respond, the more the child will learn. So, take out your earbuds, pick up your phone, pick up your child and communicate! Learn more at <http://www.pbs.org/behindtheparentstalk.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/behindtheparentstalk.html>

Letters to Parents



Estimado padre de Familia,

Una de las maneras para saber el desarrollo de la salud de su hijo/a es hacienda los siguientes estudios. Su hijo/a, _____, tendo un estudio al the Head Start programa en _____.

Primero miramos en el oido

- Otoo
 Audc

No pudimos completar la p se puede completar una pr sala de pruebas ruidosa ha cansado, preocupado o har audición de hoy, es importi si tiene una afeción medic examen de hoy.

Es posible que su hijo/a no adicionales con:

- Un a
 Su pi

Hay varias maneras de ayu ejemplos:

- Hable y escuche a comunicar.
- Cuando hable con s
- Hagale preguntas e

*Federal Head Start regulatio medical and audiological eval recommended. As we partner you have any questions.



Estimado padre de Familia,

Una de las maneras para saber el desarrollo de l estudios. Su hijo/a, _____, en _____.

Primero miramos en el oido de su hijo/a usando

- Otoacustico
 Audometría de tono pun

Su hijo/a **no pasó** la siguiente prueba de audici

Otoacustico

- Ambas orejas
 La oreja derecha
 La oreja izquierda
 No le probaron

Es posible que su hijo/a no tenga pérdida audt adicionales con:

- Un audiólogo/a
 Su pediatra

Hay varias maneras de ayudar a su hijo/a a con ejemplos:

- Hable y escuche a su hijo/a muchas ve comunicar.
- Cuando hable con su hijo/a ayudele a a;
- Hagale preguntas esta es una de las me

*Federal Head Start regulations require hearing scr medical and audiological evaluations for children w needed beyond typical monitoring for normal langa providing a Medical Home for children, please let u



Estimado padre de Familia,

Una de las maneras para saber el desarrollo de la salud de su hijo/a es hacienda los siguientes estudios. Su hijo/a, _____, tendo un estudio al the Head Start programa en _____.

Primero miramos en el oido de su hijo/a usando los siguientes examen:

- Otoacustico
 Audometría de tono puro

Si su hijo/a **passa** el examen en los dos oidos. Sabemos que el examen es verdadero, pero si en el futuro **usted nota** que el desarrollo de su hijo/a y forma de hablar y or no le satisfase, consulte con el medico o usted se puede poner en contacto con NJ EDHI para una evaluación completa.

Hay varias maneras de ayudar a su hijo/a como comunicarle y estos son algunos de los ejemplos:

- Hable y eresche a su hijo/a, muchas veces entiendan des de lo que se pueden comunicar.
- Cuando hable con su hijo/a ayudele a aprender nuevas palabras.
- Hagale preguntas esta es una de las mejores maneras de empasar una comunicacion.

*Federal Head Start regulations require hearing screenings for all enrolled children and referral for medical and audiological evaluations for children who do not pass. At this point, no further referral is needed beyond typical monitoring for normal language development. As we partner with you in providing a Medical Home for children, please let us know if you have any questions.



Dear Parent/Caregiver,

One of the ways to check your child's health and development is to screen their hearing*. Your child, _____, had their hearing screened at their Head Start Program on: _____.

earing using the following test



Dear Parent/Caregiver,

One of the ways to check your child's health and development is to screen their hearing*. Your child, _____, had their hearing screened at their Head Start Program on: _____.

hecked their hearing using the following test procedures:

missions screening

ring screening

s health and development is to screen your child's illd's hearing at their Head Start program on _____ in your child's ears and two other tests, but we were not us date. There can be different reasons why a hearing young child that can be anything from a noisy test room to attempted (child may be tired, preoccupied or hungry). y's hearing screening, it's important that your child be re- if they have a medical condition or a hearing loss that e/s screening attempt. Your child may not have a medical ry important that they have additional testing by either:

alth care provider

ncourage your child to communicate. Some of these are:

They often understand more words than they can say, you can help them learn new words that will help them

great way to start a conversation.

hearing screenings for all enrolled children and referral for r children who do not pass. At this point, no further referral is ormal language development. As we partner with you in please let us know if you have any questions.



Dear Parent/Caregiver,

One of the ways to check your child's health and development is to screen their hearing*. Your child, _____, had their hearing screened at their Head Start Program on: _____.

We looked in your child's ears and checked their hearing using the following test procedures:

- Otoacoustic emissions screening
 Pure tone hearing screening

Your child **did not pass** the following hearing screening:

Otoacoustic emissions

Pure tone screening

- Both ears
 The right ear (passed the left ear)
 The left ear (passed the right ear)
 Did not test

- Both ears
 The right ear (passed the left ear)
 The left ear (passed the right ear)
 Did not test

This does not mean that your child has a hearing loss but it is important for your child to have additional testing by either:

- an audiologist
 your child's health care provider

There are some important ways to encourage your child to communicate. Some of these are:

- Talk and listen to your child. They often understand more words than they can say.
- When you talk to your child you can help them learn new words that will help them express their ideas.
- Asking questions is always a great way to start a conversation

Sincerely,

*Federal Head Start regulations require hearing screenings for all enrolled children and referral for medical and audiological evaluations for children who do not pass. At this point, no further referral is needed beyond typical monitoring for normal language development. As we partner with you in providing a Medical Home for children, please let us know if you have any questions.

NJ Head Start Screening Outcomes

- **Location #1: Early Head Start and Head Start in Hamilton, NJ 10/14/21:**
 - 46 Pass
 - 20 Refer
 - 4 CNT
- **Location #2: Early Head Start and Head Start in Union, NJ (10/18/21):**
 - 28 Pass
 - 4 Refer
 - 2 CNT
- **Repeat Screening Visit to Location #2 (for children missed on 10/21/21):**
 - 9 pass

Online Reporting of Head Start Screening Results

- After completing necessary confidentiality documentation, 16 MSU audiology graduate students were given access to training on use of the NJ EHDI Program's online reporting system
 - Online reporting module is included in the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJiIS)
 - NJiIS includes newborn hearing screening results; diagnostic audiologic testing; audiologic monitoring and includes information on risk-indicators for possible late onset hearing loss



Online Reporting of Head Start Screening Results

- As a result of this training, NJ EHDI is investigating enhancements to their reporting system to include fields that are more in line with a Head Start/Early Head Start hearing screening experience
 - Adding a section that would reflect pure tone screening outcomes
 - Include reporting options for children who refer on one screening technology and pass on the other (in cases where both OAE and PT screening are performed)



Montclair State University Audiology Graduate Students Reveal The Head Start Screening Experience



A Head Start Staff Discusses their EHDI/Head Start Experience



Considerations the Future

- Fall and spring site visit planning in the works
- Modification of NJ EHDI screening form currently in use for newborn hearing screening and follow-up to accommodate addition of pure tone screening results as well as the various possible outcomes of screening with 2 screening methodologies for the older Head Start children
- Outreach to additional graduate programs for speech-language pathology students to partner with Head State programs in various geographic locations throughout NJ
 - With oversight by a NJ licensed audiologist with expertise in assessing young children

Considerations for the Future

Modification of current screening protocol to allow for an additional screening visit to each Head Start within 2 weeks of initial screening encounter to rescreen those children who didn't pass their screenings as well as to screen children who were missed at the first visit

Explore possibility of incorporating tympanometry screening in future Head Start screenings for children who don't pass OAE or pure tone screening

Establish a quality assurance protocol with each Head Start site to monitor compliance with follow-up audiologic services for children who did not pass screening

Thank you!

