Tips for Screeners

Schedule screenings when babies are in the best behavioral state.

- Test when the baby is quiet, preferably sleeping, or at least happy, well fed and comfortable
- Swaddling the infant may help quiet the infant

Minimize noise and confusion in the screening area:

- Try not to screen when doctors are making their rounds, by loud machinery, ringing telephones, or directly near ventilator fans. Keeping the area quiet will help with the accuracy of the screening.

OAE Users

Tips to help the hearing screening test go smoothly:

- Visually inspect ear canal for debris, such as wax, blood or vernix
- Select the proper size ear tip after examining ear canal size and angle
- To insert, *gently* pull the ear up and out, in the same manner that is done when using an otoscope to check the ears. This will open the ear canal.
- Slowly insert the tip as far as possible so that the probe remains in place without support - - Be very careful not to injure the ear canal.
- Begin test after probe has been placed and baby has quieted.
- If baby does not pass on the first try:
  1. Remove probe and check the ears again for debris
  2. Replace the probe tip if it has become dirty
  3. Clean probe if necessary
  4. Reposition the probe and run the test again

If the baby still does not pass one or both ears, it is best to wait a few hours and try again, rather than spend a lot of time on the initial test.