HEARING SCREENING TECHNIQUES AND TIPS

1. Fit your screening speed to the response of the child. Some children require a slower pace.

2. Vary the rhythm of the presentation of the tones. Do not present the tones in a predictable pattern.

3. Turn the dials and switches quietly.

4. Children, especially those with hearing impairments, easily pick up on visual clues. Be careful not to look at the controls nor to look at the child every time you present a tone. Watch for even slight arm movements.

5. Watch out for reflections in windows, mirrors, or your eyeglasses.

6. Wait for extraneous noises to cease before continuing with the screening procedure.

7. Maintain the child's attention by prompting "Are you ready?" or "Listen!" Be sure to wait before presenting the tone to ensure that the child is not simply responding to your prompt.

8. Seat the child away from the other children in the room.

9. Place the earphone cords behind the child to prevent clothing noise and to keep the child from playing with the cords.

10. Spending too much time with one child who is having difficulty should be avoided. If a child has difficulty with the task, refer for further evaluation.

11. If a number of consecutive children do not pass the hearing screening, the examiner should perform another biological check of the equipment to determine if the audiometer is malfunctioning.

12. Some children will respond when the tone goes OFF.

13. If children are responding by raising their hands, it does not matter which hand the child raises.

14. Give specific, easy-to-understand instructions. Instructions may be presented by using visual cues.