The Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation Inc. generously donates grant money each year, allowing the Clinic to conduct various projects related to childhood language disorders. Under this grant, the Clinic has been able to conduct screenings in various preschool programs in Watauga County. The assessment includes a pure tone hearing screening and a speech/language screening. The target age group for the screening is three to five year olds, although upon request, younger children will be screened informally or by using a parent questionnaire.

Contacting the Preschool Programs
The Clinical Educator in charge of the screening project contacts the director of the preschool program at the beginning of the semester in which the screening is scheduled to confirm the date and answer any questions or concerns. Parent permission forms along with a brief parent questionnaire are given to the preschool teachers to distribute to the parents one week prior to the screening. The preschool teachers provide the clinical educator with the list of the children to be screened and their date of birth. These names will be put on a master list (clinic form). From that list, the screening protocols can be filled out and name tags made for each child prior to the day of the screening.

Training for the Screening
The graduate students assigned to the screening team are trained to use the Developmental Indicators of the Assessment of Learning-Third Edition (DIAL-3) screening instrument at the beginning of each semester. A short training video is viewed and discussions take place concerning the screening process. Following the training, the team members are required to become familiar with the screening instrument prior to their assigned screening day. It is recommended that everyone involved in the screening project practice administering the concepts and language areas of the DIAL-3. Graduate students assigned to the team should check with the clinical educator at least one week prior to the training concerning the time of departure and the materials needed.

The Screening
The students should be thoroughly familiar with all of the testing procedures following the training. The screening team will need two to four complete DIAL-3 kits and one audiometer. All materials should be checked before departure to be sure they are complete.

Upon arrival at the preschool center, the permission letters and questionnaires are collected from the director. No child is tested without the signed permission form. Once the testing environment has been set up, the screening begins. The screening should be done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The Hearing Screening
The hearing screening consists of a quick pure tone check of the following frequencies: 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, and 4000 Hz. A biological check of the equipment is performed (see Appendix M) before leaving the clinic for the screening site. This check is documented on the appropriate form.
The testing room (quiet) is prepared, usually separated from the DIAL-3 screening room. Some type of "listening toy", such as blocks should be available for the child to drop in a box when the tone is heard. The children are brought in three or four at a time to eliminate any possible anxiety. A tone is presented that is loud enough for all the children to hear without wearing the earphones, and demonstration is made as to how to respond. When the children appear to understand the task, the first child is selected for testing.

It is best to do the screening in this manner:

- Right Ear - 2000 Hz at 40dB HL

Once the child responds, drop the tone to the lower screening levels.

- Right Ear - 2000 Hz at 25dB HL
- Right Ear - 4000 Hz at 25dB HL
- Left Ear - 4000 Hz at 25dB HL
- Left Ear - 2000 Hz at 25dB HL
- Left Ear - 1000 Hz at 25dB HL
- Right Ear - 1000 Hz at 25dB HL

If a child does not respond to a tone, an "X" is placed in the corresponding block on the screening form. If a child does not respond to a tone in either ear, a referral is made for a complete audiologic evaluation. A notation of "pass" or "refer" should be made on the master list.

**The DIAL-3 Screening**

The DIAL-3 is a screening tool used to assess children ages 3-0 through 6-11. It focuses on a child's abilities in the areas of Motor, Concepts, and Language. The DIAL-3 also has a parental questionnaire, which allows caregivers to record the child's self-help skills and social development and report any concerns. The Motor, Concepts, and Language areas assess children directly, using performance items. Each area is administered individually and contains six or seven scored items. These items are subdivided into tasks, which sample typical developmental behaviors that children in the age range of 3-0 through 6-11 can demonstrate readily. The screening of all three areas takes approximately 30 minutes.

The results of the DIAL-3 allow the examiner to make one of the following statements about the child:

- The child's development appears to be delayed when compared with those of the same age group, and further assessment is recommended.
- The child appears to be developing in a satisfactory manner, and no serious difficulty is foreseen.

**Scoring**

After all of the children have completed the screening process, the DIAL-3 is scored using the manual. The graduate clinicians involved in the screening should be familiar with the scoring procedures and be able to use the manual to obtain an overall screening decision. The cutoffs chosen for the Score Summary is 16 percent (1.0 SD).
Follow-Up

After the screening, letters are prepared concerning the results. If a child passes both the hearing and DIAL-3 portions of the screening, then a “pass” letter is issued to the caregiver. If the child fails any or all portions of the screening, then a “referral letter” is issued. The letters are given to the director of the program for distribution. The director also receives a copy of the master list, and along with the clinical supervisor, is responsible for any follow-up needed.