



Sound Beginnings

Illinois Newborn Hearing Program

TERMS

Air Conduction	The way sound is sent from the sound source to the outer, middle and then inner ear. The sound source is usually earphones or a loudspeaker.
Sound-Field	Sound-field (free-field) testing signals are presented by speakers, usually at a 45° angles from the child who is sitting in the middle of the room. The test may be used to assess the child's hearing with or without hearing aids. Typically, visual-reinforcement audiometry (toys light and animate when the child responds to sound); conditioned-orientation response audiometry (toys on both sides test localization); or play audiometry (various games, eg, dropping a block in response to sound) are used during soundfield testing.
Bone Conduction	Testing that sends a signal through the bones of the skull by vibrating the bones at a specific pitch and intensity. The sound then goes straight to the cochlea and through the auditory pathways of the brain. This type of testing does not test the outer and middle ear. This type of testing is used to help determine if the child has a permanent hearing loss created by damage to the cochlea and/or auditory nerve or by problems with the outer and/or middle ear which could possibly be corrected with the help of the physician.
Bone Conduction Oscillator	A device placed on the forehead or behind the ear that sends sound through the bones of the skull to the cochlea.
Masking	Constant noise that is presented to the ear that is not being tested to prevent the ear that is being tested from responding to the signal.
Pure-Tone Average (PTA)	PTA is usually the average of hearing levels at 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz.
Speech Reception Threshold (SRT)	The softest level at which a special two syllable word can be repeated at least half of the time.
Speech Detection Threshold (SDT)	The SDT, also termed the speech awareness threshold (SAT), is the softest level that the child can respond to speech stimuli.