

Tips for testing children with behavior/cognitive/learning challenges

Children with behavior, cognitive or learning issues may need more support to complete the Sound Scouts hearing test. (Please note: some children may not be able to complete the test and in this instance we recommend following up with the child's doctor or a hearing specialist).

- Plan to **spend more time** with the child doing the test as they may need to repeat sections.
- Provide **one-on-one supervision**.
- Test **early in the day**, ensuring the child has **been to the bathroom** and is **not hungry**.
- Set up the testing in a **QUIET area with no distractions** (i.e. don't seat them next to a window, in a school corridor or next to other children).
- Explain that the sounds will get quieter and quieter and there will be times when they can't hear anything which means they are doing it correctly. Encourage them not to touch the screen until they hear the next sound. **Provide this explanation before and after the Trial Run activities**.
- **Undertake the Trial Run activities** to ensure the child can **confidently play each activity** without assistance. You may wish to run through the Trial Run activities several times before initiating a test. You should quit out of the Trial Run activities once the child demonstrates competency.
- If the child **struggles with the Trial Run activities, unplug the headphones** and play the activities together. Once confident, plug the headphones in and confirm the child can complete the activities unassisted.
- **Stay out of the child's peripheral vision** whilst they are doing the test to avoid interrupting their concentration.
- **Positive reinforcement (eg thumbs up) is not required** unless the child is actively seeking validation.
- If they need to **redo a section**, let them know they are doing a good job. Remind them not to touch the screen if they can't hear anything and tell them to wait for the next sound.
- If a **fail/borderline result** is received, a **second test must be done to confirm the results**. We recommend waiting a day before retesting but when retesting must be done on the same day ensure the child has a break between test sessions.
- Contact Sound Scouts for a **review of results** if clarification is required.
- If the child is **unable to complete the Triple Factor Hearing Screener** you may wish to test with the Automatic Audiometer provided you have the appropriate equipment.

**Sound Scouts is always happy to provide further assistance and can be contacted on
contact@soundscouts.com.au**