



## STUDENT HEALTH SCREENINGS

The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires that every child of school age attending public or non-public schools must be provided with various health screenings. Listed below is a schedule for the required screenings.

### Hearing Screening

The purpose of the school hearing screening and threshold testing program is to identify children with hearing impairments. Results of hearing screening program have shown that five to ten percent of the school age population do not pass audiometric tests. The majority of these children are in need of medical treatment. Such treatment may result in restoration of hearing and prevention of permanent hearing impairment.

Communication is an integral part of human behavior. Seldom does one consider the implications of not being able to hear. The most serious effect of a hearing loss is the interference with and breakdown of communication between persons. In a child, some of the consequences may be:

- A. Interference with normal speech and language development.
- B. Development of abnormal social growth and behavior.
- C. Interference with education and human potential.
- D. Development of adjustment problems in the child and his/her family.
- E. Isolationism in a hearing world.

A child's behavior in the classroom may indicate the possibility of a hearing loss. The child may be inattentive, may ask for frequent repetitions, or his/her achievement may be low. The observation of such behavior will assist in identifying children in need of help and indicate the need to assess hearing levels.

While it is extremely important to conduct hearing tests on the young, school age student to ensure early identification of those with hearing loss and for hearing conservation purposes, it is equally important to conduct hearing tests on the older adolescent. The older student is less likely to complain of ear or hearing problems than a younger child; the impact on their ability to perform can be as detrimental as on a young child.

This is an annual screening for students in kindergarten, first, second, third and seventh grades.

Results of hearing screening will be provided annually to the student's parent or guardian.

Any child attending a public or non-public school in Pennsylvania, who by virtue of his/her hearing threshold test results obtained by the School Nurse is found to be in need of a complete ear examination, is to be referred to the family's physician or usual source of care

for medical evaluation. The family is responsible for arranging this examination and providing a written follow-up report from the physician to the School Nurse.

In the event the family requires financial assistance in obtaining the examination through the Department of Health's Hearing Services Program, the School Nurse may provide the family with the toll-free telephone number (1-800-986-4550 or 1-800-986-KIDS) to obtain an Application for Services Packet.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Mrs. Tina Vojtko, RN at 820-4070, extension 313.