

## Notes to Teachers & DOE Administrators



The following is a brief description of the procedures we use in the Lions' Hearing Screening for School-Age Children Program:

**Otoscopy:** Inspection of the ear canal, looking primarily for a significant accumulation of cerumen (ear wax), the presence of PE (Pressure Equalization) tubes, foreign objects, bleeding, drainage, and eardrum perforations. Cerumen accumulation is not in itself a positive criterion for referral.

**DPOAE Screening:** A very small microphone is placed into the ear canal to present a series of very soft sounds while responses (emissions/sounds) from the inner ear are measured at the same time. The Lions Hearing Screening Program currently uses DPOAE screening as the primary screening procedure. Failures are sent for additional Tympanometry and Audiometric screening.

**Tympanometry:** Screening for very reduced or lack of middle ear compliance (mobility of the eardrum) and abnormal middle ear pressure. A few common conditions that may be indicated by failure might be middle ear fluid/infection, blockage of the ear canal by earwax, or perforated eardrum. Medical Referral is recommended for failure of this screening procedure.

**Audiometric Screening:** Screening for the ability to hear various tones of predetermined frequency (pitch)- 2000 Hz and 4000 Hz — at 25 dB HL (loudness level). Audiometric follow-up testing is recommended for failures of this screening procedure to determine the type and severity of hearing loss.