

Hearing Evaluation: Visual Reinforcement Audiometry



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Learning Objectives

1. Understand how visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA) is done
2. Discuss what parents should expect from this type of hearing assessment
3. Recognize the important role that parents play during VRA testing as test assistants



Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA)

Goal: to assess the lowest volume levels of sound a child can hear

Method:

- A sound is presented
- Child turns head to sound
- Child receives visual reinforcement: (e.g., illuminated light, animated toy, etc.)

Duration:

- 45 minutes (or multiple appointments)



Age: 6-36 months old
Based on child's developmental age

Test Assistant's Role

- Follow the lead of the audiologist during testing
- To direct the child's attention forward between presentations and responses.
- To minimize distractions in the room

**Test Assistants can help the audiologist
see a clear response to the sound**



Child's position

ON PARENTS' LAP

- Upright, facing forward
- Without laying on the parent

PLACED IN A SECURE "HIGH CHAIR"

- Parent seated to the side of the child, and slightly behind the reinforcer



Website

<http://heartolearn.org/>



Tutorials

<http://oirparaaprender.org/tutorials>

Video: Test Assistant: VRA

<http://oirparaaprender.org/tutorials/hearing-loss-management/test-assistant-vra.html>

What should parents expect?

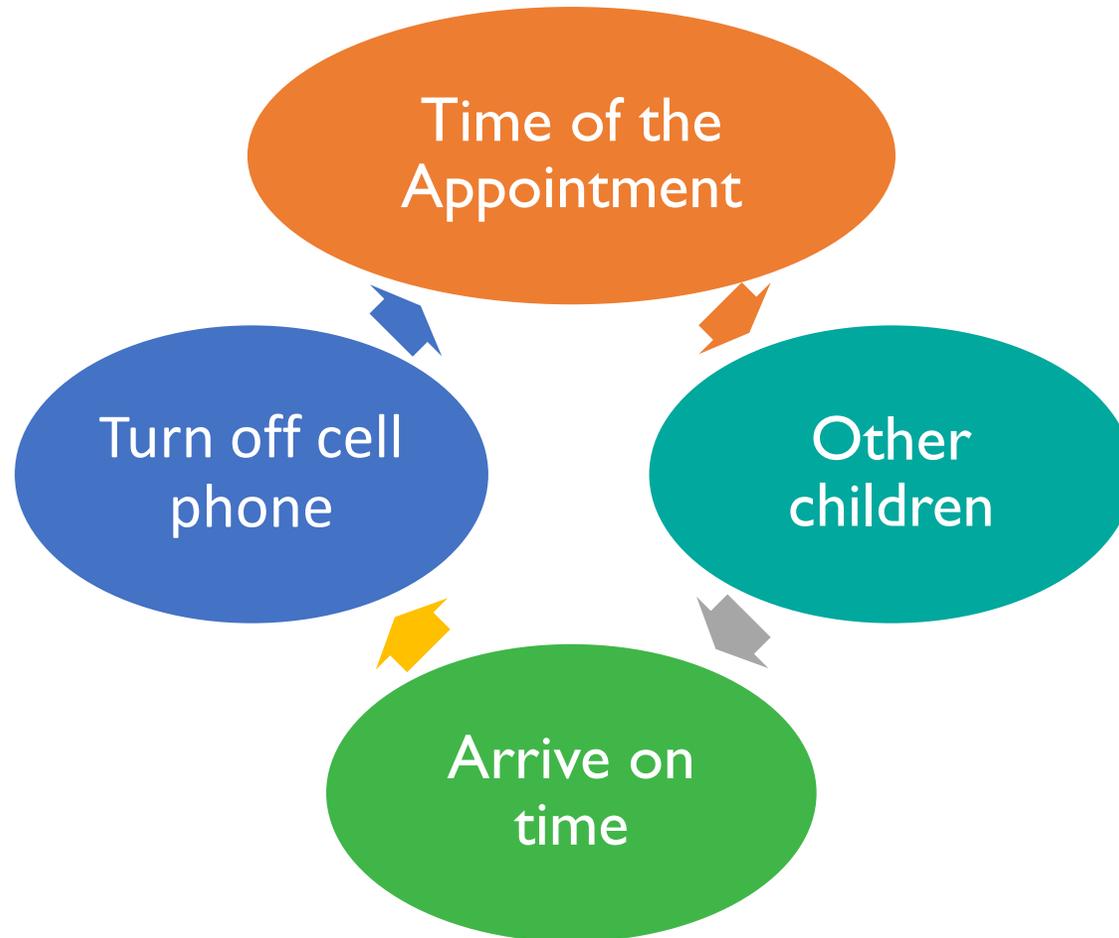
When children are very young, sometimes testing will need to be completed in multiple appointments (*a single visit may not be enough to make a final diagnosis*)

Frequent visits to the audiologist are needed to:

- Determine the type, degree, and configuration of hearing loss
- Completely assess both ears individually
- Monitor possible changes in hearing



Recommendations to Parents



Frequent Questions

How long does VRA testing take?

What if my child is fussy or uncomfortable during testing?

How reliable are VRA test results?

Website

<http://heartolearn.org/>



Communities

<http://heartolearn.org/communities/index.html>



Learning Together

<http://heartolearn.org/communities/learning-together.html>

For questions or to request materials, please visit our website:



Building Success
One Step at a Time
Hearing-Language-Literacy



“Hear to Learn”



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[Questions and Comments](#)

