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**RE: EVALUATION OF EDUCATIONAL HEARING GAME USE IN NANJING, CHINA.**

**Backgrounds**

Newborn hearing screening program (NHSP) has been strongly recommended by China's government for seven years. The screening itself conducts quite well, but how to track children with high risk factors but passed the OAE/AABR screening is still a big problem, especially there is lack of a simple and easy to operate tool in practice. In addition, there is lack of a simple and easy to operate tool in hearing screening for pre-school and primary school children as well. Even more, we need such a tool for adults. In the beginning of 2007, we use the Sound Awareness Module to examine the hearing of Children in our centre and have good results.

**The preliminary report of the study**

**Testers:**

Audiologists (Master degree in Audiology) working in Jiangsu Provincial Ear and Hearing Center, Nanjing Medical University, China.

**Tested children:**

36 children (3- 5-year-old) attended in our Clinic.

**Methods:**

Pure tone audiometry (0.5-4k Hz HTL) compared with the Educational Hearing Game (hand held Sound Awareness Modules).

**Results:**

28 children with hearing thresholds less than 30 dB HL from pure tone audiometry passed the Educational Hearing Game  
8 children with hearing thresholds more than 40 dB HL from pure tone audiometry failed the Educational Hearing Game

**Advantages:**

1. Small and compact with safety, simple and easy to use in practice
2. Tests could be conducted in schools, Kindergartens or at home by teachers and/or parents, that would save money and time
3. The sounds are appropriately filtered to test the frequencies important for speech development
4. Results were relative reliable for hearing screening

**Disadvantages:**

1. It would be difficult for under 3-year-old and/or hyperactive children, because they were not easy to collaborate
2. All 3 sounds selected are not familiar and easily recognized by children under 3-year-old and/ or living-in-city young children (especially cow and rooster)
3. More accurate calibration of sound levels might be needed; our audiologists found sound levels from SAM were higher than pure tone audiometer, particularly in head set SAM.

**Conclusions:**

Educational hearing game with sound awareness module is a very useful and effective tool for hearing assessment in children even in adults.

I sincerely recommend that it would be wide use in the world.

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