

Berard Auditory Integration Training Division

Phone: 828-683-6900 Fax: **828-683-0303**

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Berard Hearing Test

Dear Parents and/or Clients,

Although it is not absolutely necessary to obtain an accurate audiogram, Dr. Berard and we at our Center have found it helpful to get whatever is possible of a comprehensive audiology evaluation. The following factual information prior to Auditory Integration Training (AIT) is helpful for the candidate get the best results from the program. The testing can usually be obtained from your local professional (usually this is a licensed audiologist or speech/language therapist). If possible please obtain the following:

1. **Tympanogram** looks for normal canal volume and tympanic compliance; this is protocol for all hearing test. An **otoscopic exam** is highly recommended to make sure the ears are clear prior to start of program. Audiologist will use a scope to make sure ears are clear of excessive wax, fluid or infection.
2. **Pure Tone Air-Conduction** Threshold Level testing at all available frequencies (including octaves and inter-octaves), from 125 Hz to 8000 Hz. We are especially interested in knowing if the prospective AIT candidate may be hearing sounds below the 0 dB level (-5,-10). **This can cause distractibility or feeling easily overloaded by quiet background sounds.** Note: We may ask for a **re-test** at the **Mid-Point** of the AIT program. Discuss with your practitioner if this will be necessary.
3. **UCL's (Uncomfortable Loudness Levels)**. The level at which the prospective AIT candidate may find any listening levels uncomfortable on all frequencies. **This is testing tolerance levels to loud sounds and can indicate painful hearing.**
4. **Weber** or bone conduction test of laterality. Put the bone conductor speaker in the middle of the forehead and ask the child to point to where they hear the sound. Set the tone at 40 or 45 decibels. Note where the client hears the buzz tone: in the middle, left or right Test all frequencies. **This test indicates "laterality," ie whether the brain is interpreting the vibration of sound in an even balanced way or not.**

Make sure you leave the appointment with a copy of the audiogram test results. **Please have the audiologist fax the results to us at 828-683-0303; you may also scan and e-mail results to info@aithelps.com.** When an audiogram is not able to be obtained (person cannot be tested), we will use the information on the questionnaire and evaluation with the AIT practitioner to determine specifications for implementing the AIT program. Please call Sarah Gewanter, LCSW at 828-683-6900 if you have any questions.

Multiple hearing tests may be needed during the Berard Auditory Integration Training program and for follow-up. The initial program requires 2 and in some cases 3 hearing tests. Then, there is the 2 to 3 months post AIT testing and sometimes a 4 month post AIT testing (four listening sessions may be given based on the results). A six month follow-up is strongly recommended; we will explain more fully when we do the evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Gewanter, MSW, LCSW
Certified Berard Method AIT Practitioner