

Tips for testing children with behaviour/cognitive/learning challenges

Children with behaviour, cognitive or learning issues may need more support to complete the Sound Scouts test. (Please note: some children may not be able to complete the test and in this instance we recommend following up with the child's doctor or a hearing specialist).

- Plan to **spend more time** with the child doing the test as they may need to repeat sections.
- Provide **one on one supervision**.
- Do testing **early in the day**, make sure they have **been to the bathroom** and are **not hungry**.
- Set up the testing in an **area with no distractions** (i.e. don't seat them next to a window or next to other children).
- **Explain** that there will be times in the games when they can't hear anything and this means they are doing it correctly and they mustn't touch the screen until they hear the next sound. **Do this explanation before and after the Trial Run activities**.
- **Go through the Trial Run activities** - tap on each box to do a practice for each test section. Make sure they can **confidently complete these activities** without assistance before moving onto the test. You may wish to run through the Trial Run activities several times before initiating a test.
- If the child **struggles with the Trial Run activities, unplug the headphones** and complete the activities together. Ensure they can complete the activities unassisted with the headphones in.
- **Stay out of the child's peripheral vision** whilst they are doing the test to avoid interrupting their concentration.
- **Positive reinforcement (eg thumbs up) is not required** unless the child is actively seeking validation.
- If they need to **redo a section**, take the time to **let them know they are doing a good job** and they just need to repeat it to get to the next step. Remind them about not touching the screen if they can't hear anything and tell them to wait for the next sound.
- If a **fail/borderline result** is received, a **second test must be done to confirm the results**. Don't do the second test immediately afterwards (due to listening fatigue), we recommend waiting for a day.
- Contact Sound Scouts for a **review of results** if needed.