

used. In the lower elementary grades the pitch audiometer is used. Children failing to hear on tests given on the speech audiometer are given a threshold test on the pitch audiometer. The hearing threshold is found by decreasing and increasing the intensity of sound until the child responds several times at one particular level. The threshold is found in selected frequencies in high, low, and middle range tones. If losses are found, a diagramic chart showing the degree of handicap plus a report for recording the physician's findings are sent to the parents with a form letter regarding the loss. The results of all hearing tests given are recorded on the child's health record card at the school. In cases where the attending physician feels the child's hearing will return to normal following treatment, the child is tested frequently to check whether or not improvement is being shown. Upon the advice of the physician, children showing progressive or permanent losses are placed in lip reading classes. Lip reading instruction teaches the child the art of understanding the thought of another by observing the movement of the lips. Lip reading compensates somewhat for a hearing loss. The eyes take on an additional responsibility to make up for deficient ears. Lip reading is taught by the itinerant speech and hearing therapist who sees the children at the school once weekly.

Follow-up of the cases showing losses is usually based on the recommendations of the hearing examiner or the physician. Those having a slight loss are usually tested at the end of a four month period or at a time designated by the physician. When necessary, some children are referred to the school nurse for home contact regarding medical treatment or examination. Those having been fitted with a hearing aid are usually consulted at frequent intervals regarding their school adjustment and the efficiency of their hearing aid.

As it has been previously stated, the underlying basic principle of a hearing testing program is the conservation of the child's hearing; however, hearing losses in children may cause much educational retardation which may in turn involve grade repetition and special education both which add to the cost of the child's education. Because of the many social and economic involvements when hearing losses are present, the value of a hearing testing program in the public schools is immeasurable.

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