

## WHAT IS AN AUDIOGRAM?

An audiogram is a graph of the softest sounds your child hears. A few tips will help you understand the graph:

### **Across the top of the graph are the frequencies, or pitches.**

- The frequencies are organized like a piano keyboard. The low tones are on the left and the high tones are on the right.
- An example of a low pitch is a drum and an example of a high pitch is a bird chirp.
- These pitches or frequencies are measured in Hertz (Hz).

### **Down the side of the graph is the intensity, or loudness of sounds.**

- The sounds at the top of the graph are soft.
- The sounds at the bottom of the graph are loud.
- Loudness is measured in decibels (dB).

### **The marks on your child's audiogram represent the softest sounds your child responded to during the hearing test.**

If your child wore earphones during the test, you will find **X**'s and **O**'s on the graph.

**X** = left ear

**O** = right ear

If your child didn't wear earphones during the test, you will find **S**'s on the audiogram.

**S** = speakers. When using speakers, only your child's better ear is tested.

If bone conduction testing was performed, you will see [,], < or > on the audiogram.

## WHAT DOES AN AUDIOGRAM TELL ME?

Your audiologist will be able to explain your child's audiogram in full detail. Your child's audiogram can answer these questions:

- Is the hearing the same in both ears or is it different?
- How much hearing loss does your child have? (degree of hearing loss)
- Is there more hearing loss in some frequencies (pitches) than others?
- Is there a difference in air conduction and bone conduction hearing? (air-bone gap)

### **Example of an Audiogram**

The audiogram on the back of this page has pictures that represent what sounds might be heard at different frequencies or pitches, and at different intensities or loudness. The gray shaded area represents consonants and vowels at what frequencies and levels of loudness they are produced.