

## **BSA Certificate in Paediatric Impression-taking (under 5 years).**

### **Pre-course information**

#### **Scope of Practice**

Otoscopy and impression taking should only be undertaken by those whose job description specifically includes it, and where an employer has identified who is liable in the event of any claim for accident or injury etc. Employers and employees should ensure that suitable insurance is in place for any members of staff who will go on to use these procedures in their workplace.

This one-day training course is for delegates who already have experience in impression-taking in older children/adults and/or who have completed the BSA certificate in impression-taking (over 5 years).

This course does not prepare delegates to carry out impressions where contraindications exist, and/or if there is any doubt about whether the procedure should continue. In such cases referral must be made to a suitably qualified audiological or medical professional.

#### **Overview**

The course is largely practical, and will concentrate on practical techniques and considerations towards taking impressions in children and infants. There will be some theoretical components, including anatomy and physiology and earmould acoustics. Two assessed components (practical assessment and ongoing practice competency in the workplace) are included in the course and delegates will be required to pass both elements in order to achieve the certificate. The course will run from 9am – 5pm.

#### **Aims and learning outcomes of course**

- To undertake otoscopy and impression-taking safely and according to BSA procedure
- To recognise conditions of the ear and refer accordingly
- To recognise responsibility to adhere to scope of practice and insurance/liability

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- To communicate effectively with clients and/or their families/carers, including those with hearing impairment
- To arrange for earmould manufacture and maintain accurate records of procedure.
- To experience the range of equipment available to use with paediatrics

### **Pre-reading**

BSA recommended Procedure. Impression Taking

BSA recommended Procedure. Impression Taking children under 5.

NDCS (2011). Communicating with your deaf child

[Available at: <https://www.thebsa.org.uk/resources/>]

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **Am I suitable to undertake the course?**

You need to be working with or intending to work with children who require ear impressions. You need to have experience in taking impressions in adults or children over 5 years or have undertaken the BSA certificate in impression-taking (over 5 years). You also need access to a supervisor who will be able to observe you taking impressions in this age group (0-5 years) so that a competency log can be signed off.

#### **Do I need to prepare for the course?**

You will be given pre-course homework material or reading material to bring with you on the day. You will also be provided with course material handouts and presentations electronically. It would also be a good idea to have your ears checked by an audiologist / GP / ENT consultant prior to the course to ensure that they are free of wax. This is to ensure that, where possible, all delegates can take part in the practical sessions.

### **How will I be assessed?**

We will review your current impression-taking technique. On the day you will be assessed on the various bracing methods and techniques used in children. Your competency log will also be assessed after the training day. For this you need to have been observed taking between 5 and 10 impressions by a nominated supervisor, of which at least the last 3 impressions were competent. You will be provided with your competency log on the day.

### **Will I need to take part in the practice sessions?**

We like (if possible) for all delegates to take part in the practical sessions, so that you can practice on each other. All delegates will have their ears checked on the day to ensure that their ears are safe for impression-taking. All those undertaking practice will have developed a safe technique on rubber ears, before moving onto real ears. When practicing on real ears, all delegates will be under close supervision.

You will be asked to fill out a consent form for other delegates to practice the technique on you. Consent can be withdrawn at any time, either verbally or in writing. Do let me know if you think you will not be able / do not consent to take part in the practice sessions, so that this can be prepared for.

### **What if I don't pass the course?**

As the courses are small, with lots of one-to-one attention, most delegates are able to pass the course. However, in the event that you don't pass all elements of the course, you cannot be awarded the certificate. It is at the examiners discretion whether the delegate can undergo another attempt. Repeat assessment may result in extra charges.

### **Once I am awarded the certificate – what happens next?**

Competency in impression-taking can only be maintained with continuing practice and review. We recommend that you start out practising with supervision (remote or direct) until you feel confident in carrying out impressions without supervision. At all times you should be aware and adhere to your scope of practice (see above). The BSA recommends that, following the certificate, you should have updates in impression-taking at least every two years.



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### **Are there any other training courses I can do?**

There is a BSA certificate available in impression-taking (adults/ over fives), pure tone audiometry and tympanometry, and industrial audiometry.

Tracy James can also provide tailor-made courses. Please contact Tracy James on [tracy@tjaudiology.com](mailto:tracy@tjaudiology.com) for more information.