The four-toy eye-pointing test
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The Four Toy eye-pointing test was devised by Barry McCormick. It is the simplest form of speech discrimination test requiring the minimum of cooperation from the toddler. The test is a behavioural test of hearing and is carried out when the child is between 18 and 30 months. This is an age when the child can be most unco-operative!

Purpose of test
The purpose of the test is to establish with the minimal amount of co-operation eg eye-pointing, discrimination between two pairs of toys chosen from the McCormick toy discrimination test.

Rationale
A child with a developmental age of 18 months should be able to discriminate toys which are well known to him/her and given at a minimal voice level.

Criteria
At eighteen to thirty months a child should be able to:
- sit and stand alone without support
- understand simple verbal instructions in English

Procedure
The child is seated on his/her parent/carer’s knee at a table facing the tester.
- Two pairs of items from the McCormick Toy test are used. These are normally the cup and duck and the spoon and shoe.
- The items are introduced individually and a check made with the parent/carer that the child knows the name. If the child does not know an item a different pair is used.
- The articles are well spaced on the table in an arc.
- At a normal conversation level the tester asks “Where is the shoe?” or “Look at the shoe” etc.
- After two or three tries at a conversational level the voice is lowered to a minimal level of 40 dBA and the face covered to omit visual clues.
- The toys are reshuffled and the game repeated.
- A sound level meter should be used to check sound levels.

Pass criteria
A fixed gaze must be obtained in 4 out of 5 requests at a minimal level of 40dBA.