

HEAD START-ECEAP VISION AND HEARING SCREENING PROCEDURE

1302.33 Child screenings and assessments.

(a) Screening. (1) In collaboration with each child's parent and with parental consent, a program must complete or obtain a current developmental screening to identify concerns regarding a child's developmental, behavioral, motor, language, social, cognitive, and emotional skills within 45 calendar days of when the child first attends the program or, for the home-based program option, receives a home visit. A program that operates for 90 days or less must complete or obtain a current developmental screening within 30 calendar days of when the child first attends the program.

1302.42 Child health status and care.

(d) Extended follow-up care. (1) A program must facilitate further diagnostic testing, evaluation, treatment, and follow-up plan, as appropriate, by a licensed or certified professional for each child with a health problem or developmental delay, such as elevated lead levels or abnormal hearing or vision results that may affect child's development, learning, or behavior.

(2) A program must develop a system to track referrals and services provided and monitor the implementation of a follow-up plan to meet any treatment needs associated with a health, oral health, social and emotional, or developmental problem.

1. Parent/guardian authorization for screenings are obtained prior to screenings and an explanation of the methods used for vision and hearing screening are provided to the parents/guardians prior to the screenings. Screening results are shared with parents/guardians and documented.
2. Trained Health Staff are responsible for completing vision and hearing screenings.
3. Children 36 months and older, enrolled in the EHS Family Child Care Partnership program, are screened using HS hearing and vision screening methods.
4. Documentation for children receiving formal hearing or vision services may be received within the first 45 days. Authorization for Exchange of Information must be completed and on file. If documentation of current formal hearing or vision services are obtained within 45 days the child does not need to be screened for the formal services the child is receiving. For example, if the child is receiving formal vision services and documentation is obtained, the child will be screened for hearing only.

Follow-up and reminders to ensure the child is receiving ongoing services is required and must be documented.

5. FULL YEAR HS PROGRAMS ONLY. If documentation of formal hearing or vision services is received after 45 days (after initial screening is completed by HS Health Staff) the child does not need to be screened for the formal services the child is receiving. Follow-up and reminders to ensure the child is receiving ongoing formal services is required and must be documented.
6. Head Start-ECEAP children are screened within 45 days of the child's first day in class. When inconclusive results occur children are rescreened within 2-4 weeks.
7. HS-ECEAP children with inconclusive rescreens are referred to a licensed professional for further evaluation.
8. When appropriate we refer children to the school district's Child Find Program.
9. Health Staff work with parents/caregivers on a follow-up plan and track referrals.
10. Well Child exams results are also monitored.

Hearing

What/Why: An audiometer is used to check that the child is hearing sounds needed for communication and language development.

When: Initial screening completed within 45 days of the first date of service
Rescreen completed within 2-4 weeks after initial screening.
Refer if rescreen is not a "pass" or if there are immediate concerns during any screening.

How: Set the audiometer to 25 decibels, and have the child listen for the tone at 1000, 2000, and 4000 frequencies. Screen both the right and left ear at each frequency. Indicate on the screening results form if the child hears the tone at each frequency. Failure to hear a tone at any given frequency results in a rescreen. Some children may not verbalize that they hear the tone, so watch for body language in addition to verbalization to indicate the tone was heard. If unsure, rescreen within 4 weeks.

Distant Vision (Visual Acuity)

- What/Why:** A vision flipbook is used to check how well the child sees at a distance.
- When:** Initial screening completed within 45 days of the first date of service
Rescreen completed within 2-4 weeks after initial screening.
Refer if rescreen is not a “pass” or if there are immediate concerns during any screening.
- How:** Allow the child to view the 20/40 flipbook up close to familiarize the child with the screening symbols. Ask the child to name the symbol on cards 1-4 both eyes open. Accept whatever name the child calls each symbol. If a child prefers to match the symbols, they can either use the large card and point to the corresponding symbol or hold up the individual symbol card to match.
- Measure 5ft from the child’s eyes to the screening flipbook using the attached cord.
- Present the flipbook at child’s eye level with the 5ft screening distance
- Begin by screening the child’s RIGHT eye:
- Occlude the child’s left eye using the occlude glasses.
- Ask the child to identify by verbally naming or matching each symbol in the flipbook cards 5-8.
- Next screen the child’s LEFT eye:
- Occlude the child’s right eye using the occlude glasses.
- Ask the child to identify by verbally naming or matching each symbol in the flipbook cards 9-12.
- A child passes the screening with correct identification of 3 or 4 symbols with each eye.
- If a child correctly identifies 0-2 symbols with either or both eyes, rescreen within 2-4 weeks.
- *Note: for 3 year old children only, If unable to pass screening at 20/40, screen with the 20/50 flipbooks. 20/50 is considered passing for a 3 year old only

Depth Perception (Stereopsis)

What/Why: Specialized glasses and picture are used to see if both of the child's eyes are working together and the child has depth perception.

When: Initial screening completed within 45 days of the first date of service
Rescreen completed within 2-4 weeks after initial screening.
Refer if rescreen is not a "pass" or if there are immediate concerns during any screening.

How: Have the child put on the stereopsis glasses and look at the "magic picture" (a 3 dimensional butterfly should appear as if it rising up from the dotted picture). Ask them what they see. They should indicate they see a butterfly. Ask if they can pick up the butterfly. A child who has depth perception will most likely try to scoop up the butterfly. A child who does not see the butterfly will need to be rescreened or referred.
Note: double check the glasses before completing the screening. If the lenses fall out and are placed in the wrong side of glasses they will not work properly.

**Please note that screening have their limitations are not diagnostic in nature. Also, if a child wears glasses they should be worn during the vision screenings.*