

EARLY HEAD START THREE-PRONG HEARING AND VISION 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.

The Three-Pronged screening is used to screen for vision and hearing in Early Head Start. Parent/guardian authorization for screening are obtained prior to screenings. This will be completed within 45 days of child's first date of service. Rescreens or referrals may be needed if concerns arise.

Trained health staff are responsible for completing vision and hearing screenings.

The official screenings will become part of the child's file. All screening results must be discussed with the parent/guardian, documented in the Action Log and entered into PROMIS.

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.

If documentation of formal hearing or vision services is received after 45 days (after initial screening is completed by EHS 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.

Three-Pronged Approach

The Three-Pronged Approach vision and hearing tool is completed with the parent/guardian within 45 days of the child's first date of service. The primary caregiver/home visitor/health advocate will meet with the family and gather information through the Parent Interview (I), the Development Skills Checklist (II), the Medical/Family History Review Supplement (checklist of family history and medical factors that put child at a higher risk of having a hearing loss and/or visual impairment-this section is reference guide for the screener-not a checklist), Observations (III), and Summary Form. The tool must be completed, signed and dated by the parent/guardian and the primary caregiver/home visitor/health advocate.

- Age adjust for children less than 2 years' old who were born before 38 weeks (do not adjust for age after a child turns 2 years old).
- Use a line and date on developmental checklist to show progress (not a checkmark only).
- If there are no concerns noted on each section of the screening, the action log should reflect the date of the screening and state "EHS 3 Prong completed with parent/guardian-no concerns".

If the Parent Interview Questions identify risk factors, "We have identified high risk factors..." must be checked in the Summary Form section of the Three Prong Form.

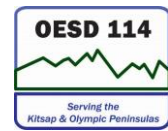
- The action log should reflect the date of the screening and state "EHS 3 Prong completed with parent/guardian-concerns noted".

If the parent/guardian states concerns or the child is **NOT** meeting the developmental checklist milestones for either vision or hearing a referral must be offered.

- The action log should reflect the date of the screening and state "EHS 3 Prong completed with parent/guardian-concerns noted".
- Follow-up must be reflected in your Action Log.

If the concern is hearing:

- If the referral is hearing, and the parent/guardian also chooses to be referred to Holly Ridge for an OAE screening, the primary caregiver/home visitor/health advocate will fill out the Head Start Screening Summary with the parent/guardian to have an OAE screening completed at Holly Ridge. *See procedure for requesting EHS OAE Referral.*



- The primary caregiver/home visitor/Health Advocate must ensure that referrals are followed-up on and documented in Action Log.

If the concern is vision:

- If the referral is for vision the primary caregiver/home visitor/educarer will refer them to their primary care physician for follow-up.
- The primary caregiver/home visitor/Health Advocate must ensure that referrals are followed-up on and documented in Action Log.
- Infants between 6 months to 12 months may also be referred to a participating InfantSEE optometrist. InfantSEE provides a comprehensive infant eye assessment as a no cost public service. See infantsee.org for participating optometrists.

Every six months, you will review the tool with the parent/guardian and complete the ongoing assessment of the child's vision and hearing. Upon completion of the ongoing assessment the tool must be initialed and dated by the primary caregiver/home visitor/educarer. All results must be documented in the Action Log and entered into PROMIS.