

# EHS Home Based Vision and Hearing Screening Procedure

## Regulations

EHS/HS:1302.42, 1302.33

ECEAP: PAO-16-1A

## Purpose

This document explains to health staff, trained to complete vision and hearing screenings, when and how to complete vision and hearing screenings for children birth through three.

## Guidance

Staff use the Three-Pronged Approach to Vision and Hearing as the evidence-based vision and hearing screening tool for ages birth through 36 months. Initial hearing and vision screenings are completed by trained staff within 45 days unless the child is receiving formal hearing and vision services and documentation from the provider is obtained within 45 days. Parent/guardian authorization for screenings are obtained prior to screenings and an explanation of the methods used for vision and hearing screening are provided prior to the screenings. Screening results are shared with parents/guardians and documented in ChildPlus. Health staff also monitor Well Child exams for vision and hearing concerns and follow-up. If a child remains in Home Based programs beyond 42 months, home visitor will contact Family and Health Manager to conduct Vision/Hearing screening using 3-5 year old tools.

### Children receiving formal hearing and vision services:

If documentation for children receiving formal hearing or vision services is obtained **within** the first 45 days the child does not need to be screened for the formal services the child is receiving.

- Authorization to Release and Exchange Confidential Information must be completed and attached to the Health Section in Child Plus.
- 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 in ChildPlus.

If documentation for children receiving formal hearing or vision services is obtained at any other time in the program, Authorization to Release and Exchange Confidential Information must be completed and attached to the Health Section in Child Plus. Follow-up and reminders to ensure the child is receiving ongoing formal services is required and must be documented in ChildPlus.

## Procedure

### Initial Screening

1. Conduct Initial Vision and Hearing Screening within 45 days of FDS using the following forms:
  - a. Parent/Caregiver Interview
    - i. Each question must be answered, and additional information included as required.
    - ii. Complete the last section based on interview and developmental checklist for referral.
  - b. Developmental Checklist
    - i. Adjust age for children less than 2 years old who were born before 38 weeks (do not adjust for age after child turns 2 years old).
    - ii. Complete the age appropriate section with the family, discussing the skills listed and observing the child's developmental skills as they relate to vision and hearing.
    - iii. Stop if/when you get to new age beyond child age. *Example: child is 11 months, stop when finished with birth to 12-month section.*
    - iv. Continue the developmental checklist until a "no" is checked twice, then STOP.
  - c. Attach all completed forms in the Health Section in Child Plus.
  - d. Additional Documents (optional)
    - i. Observation: What to Look For-use as a guide for observations as you continue to observe children to determine if there are any items that signal a vision or hearing concern.

### Six Month Review

1. Conduct a rescreen every 6 months from initial screening date using the following forms:
2. Conduct re-screen using the following forms:
  - a. Developmental Checklist
    - i. Adjust age for children less than 2 years old who were born before 38 weeks (do not adjust for age after child turns 2 years old).
    - ii. Complete the age-appropriate section with the family, discussing the skills listed and observing the child's developmental skills as they relate to vision and hearing.
    - iii. Stop if/when you get to new age beyond child age. *Example: child is 11 months, stop when finished with birth to 12-month section.*
    - iv. Continue the developmental checklist until a "no" is checked twice, and then STOP.
    - v. If staff have already responded "yes" to one of the items, staff do not have to complete that section. Start with the item with the first "no" response.
  - b. Additional Documents (optional)
    - i. Observation: What to Look For-use as a guide for observations as you continue to observe children to determine if there are any items that signal a vision or hearing concern.
  - c. Attach all forms to Health Section in Child Plus

### Referral

1. If there are concerns about a child's vision or hearing at any time regardless of screening completion, a referral to a child's primary care physician should be made and documented in Child Plus under the most recent Vision or Hearing Event.
2. If a concern occurs at the time of the initial screening or a six-month review, a referral to the child's primary care physician should be made and documented in CP under that event. Follow up should be included in Add Action until completed.
3. Infants between 6 months and 12 months may be referred to a participating InfantSEE optometrist. InfantSEE provides a comprehensive infant eye assessment as a no cost public service. See [www.infantsee.org](http://www.infantsee.org) for participating optometrists.
4. Document all follow up on referrals as an action under Vision or Hearing event. Staff will support the family throughout this process until the referral follow up is complete.