

Health Screenings—Hearing, Vision, and Growth

General Plan/Approach:

Timely and ongoing screenings are critical for children between the ages of 0-5. The developmental and social emotional guidance that is established during these early years lays out the foundation for lifelong healthy development and school success.

Head Start Program Performance Standards:

1302.42(2) – Child health status and care

Our procedures are subject to adjustment based on Public Health needs or advisory from either our local, state or federal governing bodies. Any temporary modifications to procedures in this event will be documented and shared with staff.

Procedure:

General Screening Guidelines

- Our Health Screenings are on the Parent Permissions form that families complete as part of their Registration Packet.
- Only children whose parent/guardian has given consent will be screened.
- Teachers will avoid scheduling a special activity (e.g. a field trip) that could interfere with the scheduled health screenings at their center.

Hearing and Vision Screenings

- Screenings will be performed by a Health Screener for every newly enrolled child within 45 days of entry to the program.
- Children who are not within normal limits will be rescreened.
- Screening results will be recorded in the database, and results will be shared with parents/guardians.
- Children will be referred to their health care provider, ESD, or vision specialist as needed based on health screening results.

Preparing Children for Screenings:

Teachers, or Home-Based Home Visitors will prepare children for the Health Screening process by including these suggested activities with their other classroom/home activities:

- Count the Days – Put the Screening Day on the Center calendar.
- Tell the children in advance when a Health Screener will come to their classroom. Tell them what kind of screening will be done and give the names of the screening team members.

- Demonstrate Audio Headphones, which are similar to the ones that will be used during the hearing screening, when age appropriate.
- Role play the type of screening that is scheduled.
- Tell a story about the health screening activity.
- Talk about the screening activity and discuss how the children feel about it.

Results of Screenings:

- Parents will be notified of their child's screening results.
- If a referral to a hearing or vision specialist is needed, notification is sent via email and interoffice mail to appropriate staff members (usually the Family Advocate or Home-Based Home Visitor).
- Family Advocates or Home-Based Home Visitors work with the family to facilitate scheduling an appointment with the proper healthcare provider. Once an appointment is scheduled, the Specialist ROI, including the appointment date, is sent to the Health Screener.
- Health Services will obtain results from the healthcare provider. Any results and follow-up necessary will be documented in the database by Health Services and shared with appropriate staff members.

Growth (height and weight):

- All children will have their growth measured and monitored, per consent from parent/guardian.
- With permission, Head Start will access height/weight data via the WIC Data Sharing Collaboration for those children participating in WIC.
- Height/Weight values will be entered into the data management system by the AA or other staff as directed.
- Additional heights and weights will be measured for individual children when there is a concern.
- Health Services will monitor the growth assessments.
- Family Advocates or Home-Based Home Visitor will provide nutrition education and resources to families with children having identified growth concerns.
- Family Advocate or Home-Based Home Visitor will document nutrition education in the follow-up note to the concern in the database.
- Health will direct the concern may be closed in the database when education is complete, or provider no longer has a concern.