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, lay out the foundation for lifelong healthy development and school success.

PROCEDURE:

General Screening Guidelines

- The Health Screening Consent Form (H-6) will be made available to parent/guardian of all new enrollees, generally at registration or Health Kick-Offs.

- Only children whose parent/guardian has given consent will be screened.

- EHS Specialist / HS Teacher 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 given to parents directly or sent home to parent via center cubbies.

- Children will be referred to their health care provider, ESD, or vision specialist as needed based on health screening results.
Preparing children for screenings:

HS Teachers or EHS Specialists will prepare children for the Health Screening process by including these suggested activities with their other classroom 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 receive a copy 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.
- Family Advocates and EHS Specialists 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.
- With permission, Head Start/Early 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.
- Additional heights and weights will be measured for individual children when there is a concern.
- Health Services will monitor the growth assessments.
• Family Advocates and EHS Specialists will provide nutrition education and resources to families with children having identified growth concerns.

• Once nutrition education is complete, the Family Advocate or EHS Specialist will document the follow-up note to the concern in the database.