

# Declining Early Learning Health Services Procedure

## Purpose

This document tells staff how to proceed when a parent declines Early Learning Health Services.

## Guidance

The primary goal of our Early Learning Program is to ensure that every child is successful in school and that we are committed to ensuring that all children are in school and ready to learn. The academic success of each child depends on committed partnerships with families, health care providers, and community partners to ensure that all children are healthy and ready to learn. School readiness begins with health!

## Procedure

At health enrollment, staff will discuss with parents the importance of the Early Learning Health Screenings which include Hearing, Vision, Growth, Lead, Hemoglobin, and Hematocrit (Anemia) screenings. The following talking points would support this conversation:

- Exercise and a healthy diet will help a child to grow and learn. Growth screenings (height and weight) are one way to help determine if this is happening. There are consultants available in our program who can assist parents with any questions or concerns that may arise regarding their child's growth.
- Hearing is essential for language development and communication. Early identification of any hearing loss can ensure that any needed follow up or treatment can be done quickly so there is less disruption to learning. A normal hearing test at birth does not ensure normal hearing in a preschooler. The incidence of permanent hearing loss doubles in children between birth and school age.
- Vision is also essential to learning. Early identification of any vision difficulties can ensure that any needed follow up or treatment can be done quickly so there is less disruption to learning.
- Lead can be found in many places, including peeling paint and plaster, toys, soil and water, etc. A high lead level can make it hard for children to learn, pay attention, and behave appropriately. Early Learning, along with the Medicaid EPSDT program, requires all program children to receive a blood lead test.
- Anemia also makes it difficult for children to pay attention, learn, and behave appropriately.

If a parent chooses to opt out of these screens after speaking with the staff and consulting with their child's care provider regarding the Lead and Hematocrit/Hemoglobin blood test, please contact your health coach before filling out the *Declining Early Learning Services Form*.

## Resources

Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Information on Iron

## Related Documents

*Declining Early Learning Services Form*