Vision and Hearing Screening Procedure (0-3 Years)

Purpose
This document tells Site/Center teams how to gather information to determine whether a child needs further diagnostic evaluation of their vision and hearing status, and to document that these areas have been addressed.

Guidance
Early Head Start uses a three-part approach with information taken from the Washington Sensory Disabilities Services and Prevent Blindness to screen children birth to 12 months of age for vision. Site teams work with parents to document concerns, observable infant behaviors, and signs that may indicate high risk for vision impairment or hearing loss. The three-part approach was designed to blend with the routine gathering of information from parents as well as from your observations of the infant/toddler. All children are to be screened with Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) and infants 12 months and older are screened using the vision Spot Screener.

Procedure
Infant and children’s vision and hearing screenings must be completed within 45 days of entry date.

Vision for Children Birth to 12 Months of Age
For infants 0-12 months, fill out the following forms with the parent:

- **Vision Screening Parent Interview (0-3 years) – Part 1 of 3**: Contains questions that can be included in first conversations with families.
- **The Key Vision Development Milestones – Part 2 of 3**: A form to identify a child’s abilities based on chronological age.
- **Vision Summary (0-3 Years) Part 3 of 3**: Relevant information from each of the forms listed above, and other sources, such as the Well Child Exam and Birth History form, may be transferred to the corresponding section on this form. The results from the Vision Summary are to be recorded on the data worksheet. Fax paperwork to 888-979-5897 or scan/email to the Health Line (health@p sesd.org). Please note on the data worksheet that the vision is from the Vision Summary.

Vision for Children Over Six Months of Age
- When the child turns 6 months, you can try to screen them using the Spot Screener. If you are having difficulty, you can wait until the child is 12 months. If you have completed the 3-part approach above and submitted the results, you will only need to put results from the spot on a data worksheet if the child failed the Spot Screening. Note on top of the worksheet that it is for the Spot Screening.

Hearing Screening
- Perform OAE screening on all children
  - Enter the results on the Vision (Spot) and hearing (OAE) Results form.
  - This is an NCR form and one page goes to the parents.
- The OAE results are to be recorded on the data worksheet and fax or scan to the Health Line (health@p sesd.org).
Rescreening for Hearing

- Each new program year, the site team will screen the child’s hearing using an OAE machine.
- Children not passing OAE will be rescreened within 2 weeks. Rescreen results are entered onto the Vision (Spot) and Hearing (OAE) Results Form and put the results on the data worksheet and fax or scan to the Health Line (health@psesd.org).
- Children not passing a second OAE screening, must be referred to PHCP for a middle ear evaluation. Complete the Diagnostic Follow-up form (referral from OAE hearing screening) for parents to take to the child’s PHCP.
- After being seen by PHCP, and cleared for middle ear issues, the child is screened by OAE a third time. If child doesn’t pass the third screening, complete the OAE rescreen section of the Diagnostic Follow-up form (referral form OAE hearing screening) and send with the parent for the child’s follow up appointment.
- Advise your Health/Nutrition/Safety Coach that a referral has been made for a pediatric audiologist. Follow up with the family to see if treatment is needed and document in the child’s file.

Rescreening for Vision (under 12 months of age)

- Each year the child is enrolled in Early Head Start, the site team will screen the child by reviewing and updating The Key Vision Development Milestones – Part 2 of 3. Results from this form, along with parent/site team observations and other pertinent prenatal, health and developmental concerns are to be recorded on the Vision Summary (0-3 Years) Part 3 of 3. Both parts, are updated annually. Part 3 is signed and dated by the parents and staff. Results are recorded on the data worksheet and sent in to the Health Line (health@psesd.org).

Rescreening for Vision (12 months and older)

All children will receive a Vision Spot screening annually. This is recorded on the Vision (Spot) and Hearing (OAE) Results Form. The results are also put on the data worksheet and sent to the Health Line (health@psesd.org).

Resources

Explaining Screening Results to Parents (ECHO 6-page document). A tool (sample script) of how staff can explain the OAE screening steps to parents. (see Health, Nutrition and Safety Hub)

Observations: What to Look For

A resource tool with pictures and descriptions of signs that may be observable or reported by parents. (see Health, Nutrition & Safety Hub)

Infant Audiology Services website

Infant See website: A website to refer children under 1 year old with potential vision concerns for free vision screening.

www.kidshearing.org: A website to learn more about OAE screening and information

How teachers and parents can accommodate a child’s Temporary or Permanent Hearing Loss (see Health, Nutrition & Safety Hub)