

Growth Assessment - Height/Weight/Head Circumference Screening (0-3 years) Procedure

Purpose

This explains the screening process and how to make referrals for infants and toddlers when measurement results are particularly high or low.

Guidance

Many factors influence growth. Therefore, growth data cannot be used alone to diagnose disease, but does allow you to identify some unusual patterns of growth with children. Children with unusual growth patterns should be referred back to their health care provider for further evaluation. Rapid changes are less likely to be significant when they occur within the range from the 25th to the 75th percentile.

Procedure

A Well Child Exam with growth measurements must be obtained from parent or provider within 45 days of the child's first day of attendance.

When measurement results are at or above the 85th percentile or at or below the 5th percentile, discuss weight and nutrition with the parent and document conversation. Compare the most recent set of growth charts with earlier sets for the same child. If the child has changed rapidly in percentile levels, you may want to refer them back to their primary care provider.

1. Family Advocate (FA), Family Educator (FE), or Home Visitor (HV) faxes Well Child Exams to PSESD Health Information Line.
2. Well Child Exam is uploaded to child's Child Plus file.
3. Growth charts are run by PSESD and mailed back to staff.
4. FA/FE reviews growth charts with parents, gives parents a copy, and places a copy in child's file.
5. If concern arises, FA/FE refers child to either a PSESD Nutrition Coordinator or to health care provider.