

Tri-County Community Council, Inc.
Head Start/Early Head Start

Part: 1302 Program Operations

Subpart: D-Health Program Services

Section: 1302.42 Child Health Status and Care)

Subject: Vision/Hearing Screening

Policy:

A vision and hearing screening will be done on each child enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start within 45 calendar days of their first day of attendance.

Procedure:

1. A vision and hearing screening will be completed annually on each enrolled child.
2. The vision and hearing screening should be done at the child's physician's office at the time of the annual physical examination.
3. If a vision test is not included on the physical exam, the Family Service Advocate, Center Director, Disability Specialist or Health Services Coordinator will administer a vision test using the LEA Symbols Flipchart or a vision chart. For Early Head Start children, the Family Service Advocate, Center Director, Health Services Coordinator, Disability Specialist, Nurse Consultant, or Home Visitor will administer a vision test by having the infant/toddler follow an object or light. Parent/guardian consent must be obtained prior to conducting the test.
4. If a hearing test is not included on the physical exam, the Family Service Advocate, Center Director, Disability Specialist, Nurse Consultant, or Health Services Coordinator will administer a hearing test using the whisper test method. For Early Head Start children, a hearing test will be performed by the Center Director, Health Services Coordinator, Disability Specialist, Nurse Consultant, or Home Visitor using the following:
 - a. Infant's birth -3 months: responds to loud noises or quiets to parent/familiar voice.
 - b. 4-6 months: turns head toward source of sound, responds to parent/familiar voice.
 - c. 6-10 months: responds to own name, can respond to ringing sound, turns head toward sound.
 - d. 10-12 months: recognizes and localizes source of sound, can imitate words and sounds.Parent/guardian consent must be obtained before conducting the test.
5. The Family Service Advocate, Center Director or Home Visitor will notify the parent/guardian of the results of the vision and hearing screening.