

**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, E.O.C.
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

HEARING SCREENS

§1304.20. (2) (b) 1304.20 (e) (1)1308.

GOAL STATEMENT- MCAEOC will strive for excellence by enhancing educational services to support school readiness of children that will maximize their potential to enter kindergarten with a solid foundation for reading success.

POLICY:

Head Start and Early Head Start children will receive a hearing screening using a standardized screening tool within 45 days of enrollment. Parents will be notified of results and informed of need to schedule and develop Follow-up plans for rescreening or input from Medical Providers and Audiologists.

PROCEDURE:

1. Initial screenings will be done by the Health Manager registered nurse or appropriately trained staff using OtoAcoustic Emission Screener (OAE) or Pure Tone Screener
2. Health Manager & Registered nurses will have primary responsibility for assuring that all children are screened within 45 days. If child's hearing screen has not been performed within 30 days, a plan will be developed to involve the family, family service advocates or other relevant parties to assure completion of the screening within 45days.
3. Performing a Screening: Prepare and Set-up Equipment, Appropriate area, Distractors, Hand hygiene/universal precautions. Establish rapport with child and quietly tell child what you are going to do. Visually inspect ear. Clip probe to back of collar. Turn on unit, place probe tip cover on sensor, pull back outer ear and place tip in ear, remove hand from ear & probe after insertion. Complete screening, remove tip and discard. Document results. Follow up as appropriate.
4. If results are: could not screen, a rescreen should be attempted within seven (7) days. Results of refer or did not pass warrant an interagency referral. Parents are notified through Family Contact or screen results form. Notification may be made by teacher, FSA or nurse.
5. All Hearing Screening results, follow-up referral, plan and activities will be documented in myHeadStart under Health Events/ Hearing Screen along with service notes by RN/FSA/Data Entry Clerk. This data will be used to communicate results and follow-up plans to families.
6. Re-enrolling children, who have received a hearing screening the year prior, will be rescreened annually
7. **Referral and Follow-up**
8. An interagency health referral is made to the health manager/registered nurse by the individual who enters the screening results (refer, did not pass, could not screen) in myHeadStart. The health manager/registered nurse will provide printed health information on hearing screens and recommendation for parents to share results with the child's primary care provider for further evaluation for a medical condition (ear infection)

or physician may make referral to an ear eye nose & throat (EENT) specialist or audiologist.

9. FSA/registered nurse will follow up with parent to obtain results from physician/specialist visit. Follow-up documentation will be reviewed by nurse manager/registered nurse to determine the need for any additional interagency referral, external referral or rescreen.
10. ** Note: A rescreen is warranted in cases in which it was determined by the medical provider that the child had a medical condition such as an ear infection and should be rescreened once the condition is treated or resolved.
11. For an Interagency Referral to Disability Specialist the child must have received a “pass” on the hearing screen before a referral can be made for evaluation for speech or other possible disability. The “pass” denotes that the child did indeed pass the hearing screen, was evaluated by a medical provider/specialist and it was determined that the child should have normal hearing capacity, does not have normal hearing capacity or in rare instances, after multiple attempts the screening was not able to be completed (**See Disability Referral Policy and Procedure**).