

Vision and Hearing Screening Policy

Performance Standard: 1302.42(b)(2)

Children in Doña Ana County Head Start are required to have a vision and hearing exam within 45 days of enrollment in the program. This is conducted by Head Start staff and NMSU speech language pathologist students while children are in the classroom. In the event that Head Start discovers a vision and/or hearing problem, the child will be referred to an optometrist and/or audiologist. The health and nutrition specialist will provide a list of optometrists and/or audiologists in the area along with a referral form. **This form must be returned to Head Start after it is completed by a doctor.** The child must see a doctor within 60 days of the referral. Parents should contact family outreach workers if they need financial assistance and are unable to pay for the eye/ear exam. Services providing free glasses through the New Mexico Lions Operation Kid Sight program may be available for those unable to pay. After 60 days, if referrals have not been followed up with, the health and nutrition specialist will contact the child's family to address what barriers are preventing the appointment and how to overcome them.