



Addressing Vision and Hearing Concerns in Infants and Toddlers: A Three-Pronged Approach for Washington State

Introduction from The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Program

Using professionally recognized criteria, Washington Sensory Disabilities Services (WSDS) designed the Three-Pronged Approach (TPA) as a tool for documenting parent concerns, observable infant behaviors, and developmental skills related to hearing and vision.



The purpose of this tool is threefold:

1. To enhance ESIT providers' understanding of risk factors that might affect a child's vision and/or hearing.
2. To provide evidence that a child's hearing and vision have been addressed, or "screened."
3. To determine when a child's hearing and/or vision warrant further diagnostic evaluation.

The overarching goal is to identify hearing and vision concerns as early as possible to reduce their impact on a child's development.

The Three-Pronged Approach is not intended as a replacement for objective screening procedures. Ideally, it might be used in conjunction with otoacoustic emissions (OAE) screening of hearing, photoscreening of vision, and/or diagnostic evaluation by a pediatric audiologist, optometrist, or ophthalmologist. Often, however, the TPA is the only method available to ESIT providers to screen these sensory areas and document, in one place, information regarding hearing and vision.

ESIT requires current information about hearing and vision be included in every child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The TPA has been specially designed for ESIT and should be used to capture the information as part of a family's intake process and annually thereafter, with results documented in the IFSP.

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