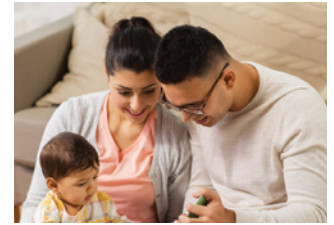


Three-Pronged Approach (TPA)

III. Observations: What to Look For

Things that May Signal a Vision or Hearing Concern in Young Children



Associated with Vision

Differences in How Eyes Look:

- Drooping eyelid
- One eye slightly higher or lower than the other eye
- Obvious differences in the size, shape or structure of the eyes
- Pupil of the eye is not round, clear, black
- Iris appears abnormal
- White of the eye is red and sore looking
- Eyes are watery even when baby is not crying

Unusual Eye Movements:

- Eyes move in jerky way back and forth, or up and down (“nystagmus”)
- Eyes do not move together
- Eye turns inward or outward after 4-6 mos. old

Unusual Gaze or Head Positions:

- Tilts or turns head in certain way when looking at an object
- Holds object close to eyes
- Seems to be looking beside, under, or above the person or object
- Is very sensitive to bright light and squints, closes eyes, or turns away from it
- Gazes directly into bright light

Absence of Visual Behaviors:

- No face-to-face eye contact by 3 months
- Does not blink when touched at bridge of nose
- Does not look at objects, or follow moving objects, by 3 months

Associated with Hearing

Differences in How Face or Ears Look:

- Oral facial clefting
- Cleft lip and/or palate
- Head or neck have malformations
- Ears are malformed, or very small, or there may be no opening
- Skin tags or pits near ear
- Frequent earaches or ear infections
- Discharge from the ears

Unusual Listening Behaviors:

- Few or inconsistent responses to sounds
- Does not seem to listen
- Does not turn when name is called
- Notices certain types of sounds more than others

Unusual Vocal Development:

- Does not make a lot of different sounds
- Voice sounds different; can't make certain speech sounds
- Is behind in talking (no spoken words at 15 months; fewer than 50 words at 24 months)

Other Behaviors:

- Pulls on ears or puts hands over ears
- Breathes through mouth
- Cocks head to one side

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