

McHenry County Department of Health

Vision and Hearing Screening Program



April 25, 2011

MCDH

McHENRY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Illinois Child Vision and Hearing Test Act Requirements

- “Vision and hearing screening services shall be administered to all children as early as possible, but no later than their first year in any public or private education program, licensed day care center or residential facility for handicapped children; and periodically thereafter.”

Purpose

- Screenings are intended to:
 - identify vision and/or hearing impairments that may prevent a child from obtaining full benefit from their educational opportunities.
 - identify unrecognized conditions as early as possible in order to encourage prompt treatment and resolution.

- **Screenings are not intended to be diagnostic**

MCDH Screening Program

The McHenry County Department of Health provides vision and hearing screening for schools, preschools and daycare centers upon request.

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Minimum Standards

- All mandated screenings must be performed by screeners trained and certified by the Illinois Department of Public Health
- Minimum mandated grades for vision screening are kindergarten, second and eighth grades; in special education classes; referred by a teacher; and transfer students
- Minimum mandated grades for hearing screening are kindergarten, first, second and third grades; in special education classes; referred by a teacher; and transfer students.
- All children age 3 and older in licensed daycare/preschool facilities must be screened annually for both vision and hearing.

Administrative Code

- The Illinois School Code requires that written notice be given to parents before screenings are performed.
- The parent or legal guardian may file a written objection on religious grounds.
- children are not required to undergo a vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report for within the previous 12 months

Administrative Code

- All children enrolling in kindergarten or enrolling for the first time in a public, private, or parochial school must have an eye examination performed by a physician who performs eye examinations or an optometrist within the previous year

Screening Procedure

- The initial vision and hearing screening is completed.
- Children who do not pass the initial screening are rescreened within 10 to 14 days.
- Children who do not pass the vision rescreening will be referred, through the parents, for further evaluation by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.
- Children who do not pass the hearing rescreening will be given a hearing thresholds test.
- A child meeting referral criteria on the hearing thresholds test will be referred, through the parents, for further evaluation by a physician or audiologist.

Screening Referral Procedure

- MCDH screeners notify parents and/or legal guardians of their child's failure or inability to perform the required test.
- Parents are asked to have their child tested by an appropriately trained physician of their choice or SEDOM and return a completed referral form to the Vision and Hearing Program.
 - If a completed report is not returned in 2 months screeners send a letter to the parents requesting referral status.
 - If there is no response in 2 additional months screeners attempt to reach parents by phone to ascertain referral status.

July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

- Screenings services provided for:
 - 67 licensed daycare/preschool facilities
 - 40 Elementary and Secondary Schools



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Vision Screenings

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

- 7,899 students screened
- 746 rescreened
- 510 referred for physician follow-up
- 288 referrals completed



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Vision Screening Referral Diagnosis

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| ▪ Refractive Errors | |
| – Myopia (nearsightedness) | 107 |
| – Hyperopia (farsightedness) | 8 |
| – Astigmatism | 38 |
| ▪ Muscle Balance | 13 |
| ▪ Amblyopia | 13 |
| ▪ Combined findings | 98 |
| ▪ Normal | 8 |

Hearing Screenings

July 1,2009 – June 30,2010

- 12,201 pre-school - 12th grade students screened
- 570 Rescreened
- 39 referred for physician follow-up
- 32 referrals completed



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Hearing Screening Referral Diagnosis

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| ▪ Canal Obstruction | 7 |
| ▪ Otitis Media | 21 |
| ▪ Sensorineural | 1 |
| ▪ Normal Findings | 3 |

Special Challenges

- Frequently changing legislative requirements
- Language and cultural differences
- Special populations
 - Very young children
 - Special needs children
- Scheduling
 - Individual school schedules
 - Special events
 - Snow days
 - Childhood illness
- School Screening Resources
 - Lack of transport assistance
 - Poor testing locations
- Parental follow-up

