

# Three-Pronged Approach (TPA) Instructions



## Before You Begin

If a child referred to Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) has been identified as deaf/hard of hearing or blind/low vision, **you do not need to complete the Three-Pronged Approach (TPA) for both sensory areas.**

### For a child who is identified as deaf/hard of hearing:

- Enter that information on the Summary Form and proceed to screen.
- Ensure an appropriate professional (e.g., Teacher of the Deaf) is on the IFSP team.

### For a child who is identified as blind/low vision:

- Enter that information on the Summary Form and proceed to screen.
- Ensure an appropriate professional (e.g., Teacher of Children With Visual Impairment) is on the IFSP team.

If a child is at risk for combined hearing/vision concerns, go to [www.wsds.wa.gov](http://www.wsds.wa.gov) and Request Support.

## Instructions

The TPA blends routine gathering of information from parents or caregivers with your observations of the infant/toddler. If you have access to a child's medical reports, these, too, can alert you to possible reasons for concern regarding hearing and/or vision. The TPA contains four basic forms:

- I. **Parent Interview:** Interview questions that are embedded into initial intake procedures. This informs the interviewer of family history and medical factors that put a child at higher risk for hearing and/or vision concerns.
- II. **Developmental Skills Checklist:** Checklists of developmental skills related to vision and hearing for your reference as you assess the child during first visits.
- III. **Observations:** Checklists of what to look for in a child's appearance and behaviors.
- IV. **Summary Form:** Information obtained from the three prongs is transferred to this form. *The summary form documents one of two possible screening outcomes:*
  1. **No concerns** regarding the child's vision or hearing at the present time.
  2. **There is a concern**, and a plan for follow up is recorded. The parents may take this form to their primary care physician to request further evaluation of the child's vision or hearing.

## How often is the TPA administered?

At initial intake and annually as part of the annual IFSP review.

## Questions?

Contact WSDS and select the "Request Support" button:  
[www.wsds.wa.gov](http://www.wsds.wa.gov)

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