

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 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

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