SCREENINGS

Academic/Language Screenings: Academic screenings, for the purpose of determining risk for academic concerns, are completed routinely for all students through the use of universal screenings (e.g., FAIR, Core K-12). There are no requirements for SLPs to complete language screenings to determine academic risk factors. Students for whom teachers have academic or performance concerns are referred to the problem-solving team (i.e., TBIT, SBIT, ISS) where the Problem Solving/Response to Intervention (PS/RtI) framework is utilized to identify student needs, and to determine high-quality instructional strategies or interventions to be implemented, based on data collected. Formal language screenings are typically not required or expected as a precursor to determining the need for academic interventions.

For preschool-age students, interventions under PS/RtI may be waived for any student with suspected language impairment if recommended by the problem-solving team. Because there is no requirement for interventions in pre-k, language screenings may be appropriate in determining the need for further testing.

Language re-screenings are required for Head Start/Early Head Start students who fail the classroom-based language screener (AccuScreen).

Speech Screenings: When teachers have concerns for their students’ speech, they are referred to the problem-solving team, where the PS/RtI framework is utilized to identify student needs, and to determine whether high-quality instructional strategies or interventions are warranted, based on data collected. Interventions under PS/RtI may be waived for any student with suspected speech impairment if recommended by the problem-solving team. This allows SLP to move forward with the evaluation process, but does not preclude the team from implementing MTSS and data collection if there are other areas of academic concern in addition to speech.

Speech screenings articulation, voice, or fluency are recommended when the team believes an adverse effect on the student’s ability to perform and/or function in their typical learning environment exists. (Note: Articulation errors such as vowelized /r/, /s/ distortions, etc., do not typically impact a students ability to perform and/or function in their typical learning environment.)

Speech re-screenings are required for Head Start/Early Head Start students who fail the classroom-based screener.

Hearing Screenings: Hearing screenings are a requirement of Pasco schools for Head Start programs, grades K, 1 and 6, and when there is a concern regarding a student’s hearing. Each year, an Action Plan for Hearing Screening Completion is completed to ensure proper coordination and to determine responsibilities of the SLP.

Prekindergarten Services has arranged for Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) screenings for speech and language to be completed by HS/EHS classroom teachers, and the hearing screenings completed by Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida. SLPs may be asked to perform hearing screening for students who were absent or who enrolled in
HS/EHS after the date of the Sertoma screenings, as well as re-screenings for all hearing screening failures, based on school’s Action Plan for Hearing Screening Completion.

Hearing screening requests by the problem solving team, classroom teachers, parents, and/or other professionals must be completed as they are made throughout the school year.

**Reporting Results**

Results for all hearing screenings must be documented in HealthTracker or the HS/EHS database.

- For grade-wide screenings (K, 1, 6) the absences and failures are reported. SLPs will either provide the school nurse with a list of students who were absent and students who failed, or enter the data themselves (SLPs may request a password for HealthTracker access from Lisa Kern, School Nurse on Assignment, in Student Services.)

- Results for speech re-screenings for HS/EHS only are documented using MIS #443. SLPs will write in “[date], Speech Re-screening, [result]” and give all MIS #443 forms to the Head Start Family Service Worker for filing in the health section of the student’s cumulative folder. The SLP maintains the “Speech-Language and Hearing Screening Data Form for Head Start” (non-MIS) for speech screenings only, and sends a completed copy to: Head Start Supervisor – D.O./Pre-K. As new Head Start students enroll, an updated form is sent to the Head Start Supervisor – D.O./Pre-K.

- Results for speech screenings for all students (other than HS/EHS) are documented in DocuSystem (now found in PlanMaker) by selecting the appropriate screening option in the “service” drop down menu. The Data/Notes section should be used for providing any important details regarding the screening.

**General Guidelines for Hearing Screens**

Screen the following frequencies bilaterally: 1000 Hz at 25 DB; 2000 and 4000 Hz at 20 DB.

- **Pass** – the student hears all frequencies in both ears
- **Fail** – the student misses one or more sounds in either ear

  - Always perform a biological check of the audiometer prior to screening a student.
  - The student should be seated facing away from the audiometer.
  - The headphones must fit “snugly” over each ear. Red on right ear, blue on left ear.
  - Start with the right ear; finish with the left ear.
  - Ask student to raise the hand on the side they hear the sound (right ear – right hand, left ear – left hand)
  - If a student has difficulty conditioning to the task, use items such as blocks for them to drop into a bucket each time a sound is heard.

When completing a grade-wide screening:

- SLP or school nurse should rescreen all failures at the end of a screening session.
• If the student passes the rescreen, document it as a “pass”
• If student fails again, SLP must document, or provide information to school nurse to document screening failure; student must be rescreened in approximately two (2) weeks.
• Schedule a rescreen date for all hearing screening failures and absent students.
**Referral Procedures for Hearing Screen Failures**

After waiting 2 weeks, if student still fails hearing screening, refer to school nurse for otoscopic exam and possible medical referral. If signs of wax impaction, dull eardrums, or inflammation are visible, the nurse may recommend a medical referral to the parent. If medical referral is made, rescreen after medical treatment. If student still fails screening after medical treatment, continue to step one below (refer to school’s Action Plan for Hearing Screening Completion for the responsibilities of the SLP). Note: If medical treatment has not been sought, and signs of wax impaction, dull eardrums, or inflammation remain visible, continued follow up with the parent is required. An audiological evaluation cannot be completed when possible medical intervention is indicated.

1. Call parent to explain screening failure and recommendation for the student to receive an audiological exam. Mail home audiology letter and map to Seven Oaks Elementary School.

   *For Head Start students, a copy of the letter should also be provided to the Family Services Paraprofessional serving the school so that assistance may be provided with scheduling, transportation, and medical follow-up.*

2. Send the top three copies of the Audiology Referral form (MIS # 731) to Audiology Department at Seven Oaks Elementary, with all the information fields completed except for Appointment Date and Time. Indicate which ear(s) and which frequencies were failed. Keep the goldenrod copy of the Audiology Referral (MIS #731) and place it in the student’s cumulative file.

3. Audiology Services will follow up with the parent to ensure that an appointment has been scheduled, complete the line indicating appointment date and time on MIS # 731 (Audiological Referral), and return the canary copy to the referring speech-language pathologist or school nurse.

4. Following the evaluation, a report will be sent to the school with the details of testing and recommendations for follow-up. The results and recommendations are to be shared in a timely manner with the problem solving team, and a copy of the Audiology Report is filed in the Health section of the student’s cumulative file.

5. If the student did not report for an audiological evaluation, Audiology Services returns the original audiological referral form (MIS # 731) stamped *NO SHOW* to the school and the student is then rescreened. If the student fails the rescreen, a Follow-Up Audiology Letter is sent to the student’s home. A copy of the follow-up letter must also be sent to Audiology Services.

6. All correspondence including MIS # 731 is filed in the cumulative folder to maintain documentation that follow-up was completed, attempted, and/or recommended. If continued follow-up is needed, the Supervisor for the D/HH program or the ESE Specialist assigned to the school should be contacted for advisement.
Date: _____________

Dear __________________________:

As we discussed, your child has recently failed two (2) hearing screenings, which may indicate your child is experiencing a hearing loss. Research suggests that even the mildest hearing loss can cause learning problems and affect academic performance. Therefore, your child’s hearing should be evaluated as soon as possible.

If you have Medicaid or private insurance and would like to schedule an audiological evaluation with a private clinic/audiologist at a location convenient to you in your area, please request that a copy of the evaluation report be sent to the school your child attends and to the Audiology Department at Seven Oaks Elementary School. If you would like to utilize Pasco County’s Audiology Services at Seven Oaks Elementary School in Wesley Chapel at no cost to you, you may contact the Audiology Services department at 727-774-0727, 813-794-0727, or 352-524-0727.

If you have any questions, please call me at ____________

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Speech-Language Pathologist or School Nurse]

Attachment: map to SOES
Date: ________________

Dear ____________________________

Our records indicate that we do not yet have audiological evaluation results for your child.

As a reminder, hearing loss can cause learning problems and affect academic performance. It is therefore important to follow-up with an audiologist when a hearing loss is suspected.

Please contact a private audiologist or the Audiology Department at Seven Oaks Elementary to schedule your child’s appointment. The phone number for the Audiology Department at Seven Oaks Elementary is 727-774-0727, 813-794-0727, or 352-524-0727.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Speech-Language Pathologist or School Nurse]

cc: Audiology Services, Seven Oaks Elementary School
Coordination of Hearing Screenings through Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida

A team of 4-6 trained volunteers from Sertoma will be available to help conduct the required grade wide hearing screenings for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first and sixth grade.

School Nurses and Speech-Language Pathologists who will be coordinating screenings at their schools are to contact the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation Office at 727/834-5479 or email gravesc@allkids.org to set up a screening date. The Foundation will begin scheduling screening dates in August and continue scheduling through January.

Sertoma has requested that:

- **A quiet room that is large enough to comfortably house 7-8 volunteer screeners be reserved for the screening. The media center may be the best choice.**
- **A school lunch is provided for the volunteers** to show appreciation for their service. This request should be made through your school’s administration.
- The school volunteer coordinator enlists volunteers if needed. **Sertoma will be contacting the school volunteer coordinator to discuss volunteer needs.** Sertoma volunteers have already met school volunteer requirements (e.g., fingerprinting and background check) prior to assisting at a school.
- Teachers **send home Sertoma flyer after the screenings.** A packet of these flyers will be given to teachers.

Useful tips for coordinating with Sertoma:

- Your school may require a form to be filled out for use of the media center or other rooms. Please verify if any paperwork is required to reserve the space when scheduling a date with Sertoma.
- Request for your school principal to help secure one or two school-based volunteers to assist with bringing students to/from screening.
- Remind your school principal that a lunch needs to be coordinated for the volunteers at least one week before the event.
- On the day before the screening, notify front office staff to expect volunteers from Sertoma and indicate where screenings will take place.
- After the screenings have been completed for your school, please show your appreciation for their help by mailing Sertoma a thank you note for their assistance and continued generosity.
- For failed screenings, follow district procedures for re-screenings.