**Vision Screening Guidelines**

For all referrals to the EI/ECSE program, there are three categories of children considered for vision screening and three levels of screening:

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| **Category I**  All children birth to five are referred to Level 1. Vision is screened as part of the referral. | **Level 1: Informal Screening**  All children referred to the EI/ECSE program are informally screened for vision impairments if no other visual concerns are known at the initial referral. EI/ECSE staff complete the vision screening checklist by interviewing parents, observing the child, and reviewing information collected through health screening and the EI/ECSE intake form. At minimum, the vision screening checklist is completed to document completion of the vision screening.  If no concerns are identified from these sources of data, screening stops. If concerns are identified from any of the three sources (family, medical, or EI/ECSE staff observation) of information, screening proceeds to Level 2. |
| **Category II**  All children at risk of vision impairment are referred to Level 2. | Level 2: Medical Evaluation If there is an indication of a problem according to reports by physicians or other professionals, parents, or if there is an observable concern at Level 1, parents are asked to consult with their local health care practitioner to check out possible vision or vision related problems. |
| **Category III**  All children suspected of having vision impairment are referred to Level 3. | Level 3: Evaluation by Ophthalmologist or Optometrist If specific vision problems are suspected or the local health care practitioner determines possible vision problems, parents are asked to consult an optometrist or an ophthalmologist. In some cases, (i.e., managed care) the local health practitioner usually will refer the child to an ophthalmologist or optometrist for an evaluation. The EI/ECSE specialist may consult with a regional teacher of visually impaired before referral for the vision evaluation.  The EI/ECSE specialist refers to the regional program following an evaluation by the ophthalmologist or optometrist if the report indicates there is a vision problem that may require individualized instruction and related services. |