Eligibility of Child with Hearing Impairment, including Deafness
Policy/Procedure

Children with hearing impairments and deafness are eligible for special education services. Criteria include:

1. A child is classified as deaf if a hearing impairment exists which is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, and learning is affected. A child is classified as hard of hearing who has a permanent or fluctuating hearing impairment which adversely affects learning; or
2. Meets the legal criteria for being hard of hearing established by the State of residence; or
3. Experiences recurrent temporary or fluctuating hearing loss caused by otitis media, allergies, or eardrum perforations and other outer or middle ear anomalies over a period of three months or more. Problems associated with temporary or fluctuating hearing loss can include impaired listening skills, delayed language development, and articulation problems. Children meeting these criteria must be referred for medical care, have their hearing checked frequently, and receive speech, language or hearing services as indicated by their IEPs. As soon as special services are no longer needed, these children must no longer be classified as having a disability.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45 CFR Section 1304.21, 1308.11
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