



NHSA 12 Basic Health Services Credential Competencies

- 1. Demonstrate understanding of Head Start history, mission, and philosophy.**
- 2. Exhibit general knowledge of the Head Start program, including Performance Standards, planning, policies, procedures, and monitoring.**
- 3. Implement a child health and development services program.**
- 4. Implement health and safety practices and procedures that reduce risk.**
- 5. Assure a physical environment that supports the delivery of high quality services to all children and families.**
- 6. Implement a comprehensive nutrition program, based on needs and developmental appropriateness.**
- 7. Assure implementation of mental health services in partnership with other staff and parents.**
- 8. Assure implementation of parent involvement in health services and a staff health/wellness program.**
- 9. Assure and participate in the involvement of the Health Services Advisory and Parent Committees in the health services program.**
- 10. Implement individualized services for children based on information from their evaluation, observation, and treatment.**
- 11. Maintain standards of conduct and professional ethics.**
- 12. Continue professional development in formal and informal settings.**

Health Services Credential: A Competency Based Program

NHSA 12 Basic Health Services Credential Competencies are based upon 12 broad areas that encompass the expectations of Head Start's mission and Performance Standards in the health services area.

- **Competencies 1 & 2** address a broad understanding of Head Start's history, mission, philosophy, regulations and management systems.
- **Competencies 3 through 7** examine the range of health services including dental, mental health, nutrition and facilities.
- **Competencies 8 through 10** focus on health services in all the service delivery areas, from program governance to parent involvement and education.
- **Competencies 11 and 12** take a general look at standards of conduct, professional ethics, and professional development.



The Competencies are further outlined through the indicators, called Functions.



Functions:

Indicators within each Competency that further detail the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to fulfill the objectives of health services in Head Start.

Activities:

Provide the candidate the opportunity to demonstrate specific skills, abilities and understanding of the Competency. The Activities are numbered according to the Competency and Function with which they correspond.

NHSA Basic Health Services Credential Workbook Sample — Competency 3

ACTIVITY C3-FB-A3: Describe how you obtain or arrange for further diagnostic testing and exams for each child with a suspected or observed/known health problem. Include the process, who is responsible, timelines, and any forms used to track and document.

ACTIVITY C3-FB-A2: Attach the forms your program uses for recording and tracking children's well-child care and describe how these are used.

FUNCTION B: Status of appropriate schedule of well-child care.

ACTIVITY C3-FB-A1: Describe your local process for making a determination as to whether or not a child is up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary health care; include your role in this process.

ACTIVITY C3-FA-A2: Describe how you assist parents in accessing a source of health care, if they don't have one. Give a specific example of a time you did this.

COMPETENCY 3

Implement a child health and development services program.

FUNCTION A: Ongoing source of continuous accessible health care.

ACTIVITY C3-FA-A1: Describe your local process for making a determination about whether or not a child has an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care. Include in your description your role in this process, the timeline for completion, and how you ensure the process is completed within the Head Start Performance Standards requirements.

(Activity C3-FA-A1 means Competency 3-Function A-Activity 1).



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FUNCTION E: Ongoing care.

ACTIVITY C3-FE-A1: Describe your local procedures addressing new or recurring medical and dental concerns. Include in your description your role in this process and how you include both staff and parents' observations and recording of changes in the physical appearance of the child. Attach the forms you use for recording and tracking new or recurring medical and dental concerns.

ACTIVITY C3-FD-A2: Describe your local dental follow up and treatment services and how you ensure compliance with Head Start Performance Standards 1304.20(c)(3).

FUNCTION D: Treatment and follow up plans.

ACTIVITY C3-FD-A1: Describe your local process for developing and implementing follow up plans for children with identified health conditions and how you work with parents to ensure treatment is begun. Include in your description your role in this and how you communicate with parents. Attach the forms you use to record and track treatment and follow up plans.

ACTIVITY C3-FC-A3: Attach your program's immunization schedule, health services schedule and the forms you use to record and track these services. Describe how your program ensures these requirements and schedules meet all applicable regulations.

ACTIVITY C3-FC-A2: Describe how your program ensures screenings are sensitive to children's cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

FUNCTION C: Screening procedures.

ACTIVITY C3-FC-A1: Describe your local screening process and procedures. Include in your description your role in this process, what screenings are completed, timelines from the child's entry into the program, what other staff is involved, and how you track the screenings.

(Activity C3-FA-A1 means Competency 3-Function A-Activity 1).

SAMPLE ONLY