### Three-Pronged Approach

#### III. Observations: What to Look For

**Things that May Signal a Vision or Hearing Problem in Young Children**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associated with Seeing</th>
<th>Associated with Hearing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Differences in How Eyes Look:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Differences in How Face or Ears Look:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>❏ Drooping eyelid</td>
<td>❏ Cleft lip and palate</td>
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<tr>
<td>❏ One eye slightly higher or lower than the other eye</td>
<td>❏ Head or neck have malformations</td>
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<tr>
<td>❏ Obvious differences in the shape or structure of the eyes</td>
<td>❏ Ears are malformed, or there may be no opening at ear canal; pits, skin tags near ear</td>
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<tr>
<td>❏ Pupil of the eye is not round, clear, black</td>
<td>❏ Frequent earaches or ear infections</td>
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<td>❏ White of the eye is red and sore looking</td>
<td>❏ Discharge from the ears</td>
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<tr>
<td>❏ Eyes are watery even when baby is not crying</td>
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**Unusual Eye Movements:**
- Eyes move in jerky way back and forth, or up and down
- Eyes do not move together
- Eye turns inward or outward after 4-6 mos. old

**Unusual Gaze or Head Positions**
- Tilts or turns head in certain way when looking at an object
- Holds object close to eyes
- Seems to be looking beside, under, or above the person or object
- Baby is very sensitive to bright light and squints, closes eyes, or turns away from it
- Gazes directly into bright light.

**Absence of Visual Behaviors**
- No face-to-face eye contact by 3 months
- Does not blink when touched at bridge of nose
- Does not look at objects, or follow moving objects, by 3 months

**Unusual Listening Behaviors:**
- Few or inconsistent responses to sounds
- Does not seem to listen
- Does not turn when name is called
- Notices certain types of sounds more than others

**Unusual Vocal Development**
- Does not make a lot of different sounds
- Voice sounds different; can’t make certain speech sounds
- Is behind in talking (no spoken words at 15 months; fewer than 50 words at 24 months)

**Other Behaviors**
- Pulls on ears or puts hands over ears
- Breathes through mouth
- Cocks head to one side