



West Virginia HealthCheck

4 Year Visit

What to Expect at the 4 Year Visit

Your child is getting ready to begin school. Most 4-year-olds enjoy and look forward to the social and learning opportunities provided by early education. During this visit some questions your provider may ask include:

How is your child learning and getting ready for school?

How does your child communicate what she wants and knows?

Is your child interested in other children? Does your child play with other children?

- Your child's height, weight, **BMI** and blood pressure will be measured.
- Your child will have a **visual acuity screen** and a hearing screen.
- Your child will have a complete head-to-toe physical examination.
- Your provider will ask questions about exposure to **tuberculosis** and **lead**.
- Your child may receive one or more immunizations.
- Throughout the visit, you will have opportunities to talk with the provider about questions and concerns you may have about your child. In addition, your provider will give you age-appropriate information on safety, and talk about healthy habits, school readiness and the importance of play.

Preventive Care Tips: Hearing Screening

Hearing loss can happen when any part of the ear is not working in the usual way. Babies born with a hearing loss can be diagnosed through a **newborn hearing screen** that is usually done while they are in the hospital.

In some cases, hearing loss may be acquired, progressive or delayed-onset and is caused by things like infections, trauma, or damaging noise levels. Because the problem doesn't become apparent until later in childhood, it's important to have children's hearing screened regularly as they grow.

Parents, grandparents, and other caregivers are often the first to notice that something may be wrong with a young child's hearing. Even if your child's hearing was tested as a newborn, you should continue to watch for signs of hearing loss including:

- Speech is delayed.
- Speech is not clear.
- Does not follow directions. This sometimes is mistaken for not paying attention or just ignoring, but could be the result of a partial or complete hearing loss.
- Often says, "Huh"
- Turns the TV volume up too high.

Hearing screening in the providers office should be done at ages 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 years and any other time if there is a concern.

Audiometry is a test used to measure hearing. Audiometry uses tones in which a provider lowers the volume until the child no longer responds to the tone. This is repeated over a wide range of high to low tones. The lowest volume at which the child responds consistently to each tone is determined to be the level of hearing. Children who fail a hearing screening test should be sent to an **audiologist** for a complete hearing evaluation.

Between well-child visits, monitor your child's hearing at home, and if you think something might be wrong, have it checked out.

Is Your Child Starting School?

Buying new school clothes, pencils and notebooks might be on your list of things to do before sending your child off to school, but did you know that immunizations and a comprehensive wellness screening are also required for new school entry?

Your healthcare provider will provide documentation of the immunizations and wellness screens that your child has received. This information will need to be given to the school to complete the enrollment process.

What To Expect At The 5 Year Visit

- Your child will have his blood pressure checked.
- Your child will have a vision and hearing screen.
- Your child may receive one or more immunizations.
- Your provider will ask questions about exposure to tuberculosis and lead.

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