

# MEDICAID EPSDT BENEFITS SUPPORT CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION



The Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit ensures coverage for audiology and speech-language pathology services for children who are enrolled in Medicaid.

Here's how audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) can meet the requirements for EPSDT coverage.

- E** **EARLY** - assessing and identifying problems early  
Example: Observing parent/child intervention to assess developmental milestones such as first words and sentences.
- P** **PERIODIC** - checking pre-school and school-age children at regular intervals  
Example: Looking for age-appropriate social interaction and meeting developmental norms.
- S** **SCREENING** - hearing screening
- D** **DIAGNOSTIC** - performing testing related to speech, language, hearing, voice, swallowing disorders to determine the need for intervention, when referred by a physician or a risk is identified
- T** **TREATMENT** - determine and implement course of treatment to address communication skills deficits that are interfering with normal growth and development. This would include additional referral to other professionals as needed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

One third of children age 1-6, and more than 40% of school age children and adolescents are covered by Medicaid. EPSDT offers a way to ensure that children receive appropriate physical, dental, developmental, and mental health services—from prevention to treatment.