

Project:

Use primary prevention screening methods to acknowledge any problems with vision, hearing, or growth in children at La Casa's head start/early head start program.

Host Organization:

La Casa De Don Pedro was established in 1972 by local activists wanting to provide educational and charitable programs to meet the needs of Newark's Puerto Rican community. It is a Latinx-led organization that serves residents under 3 divisions.

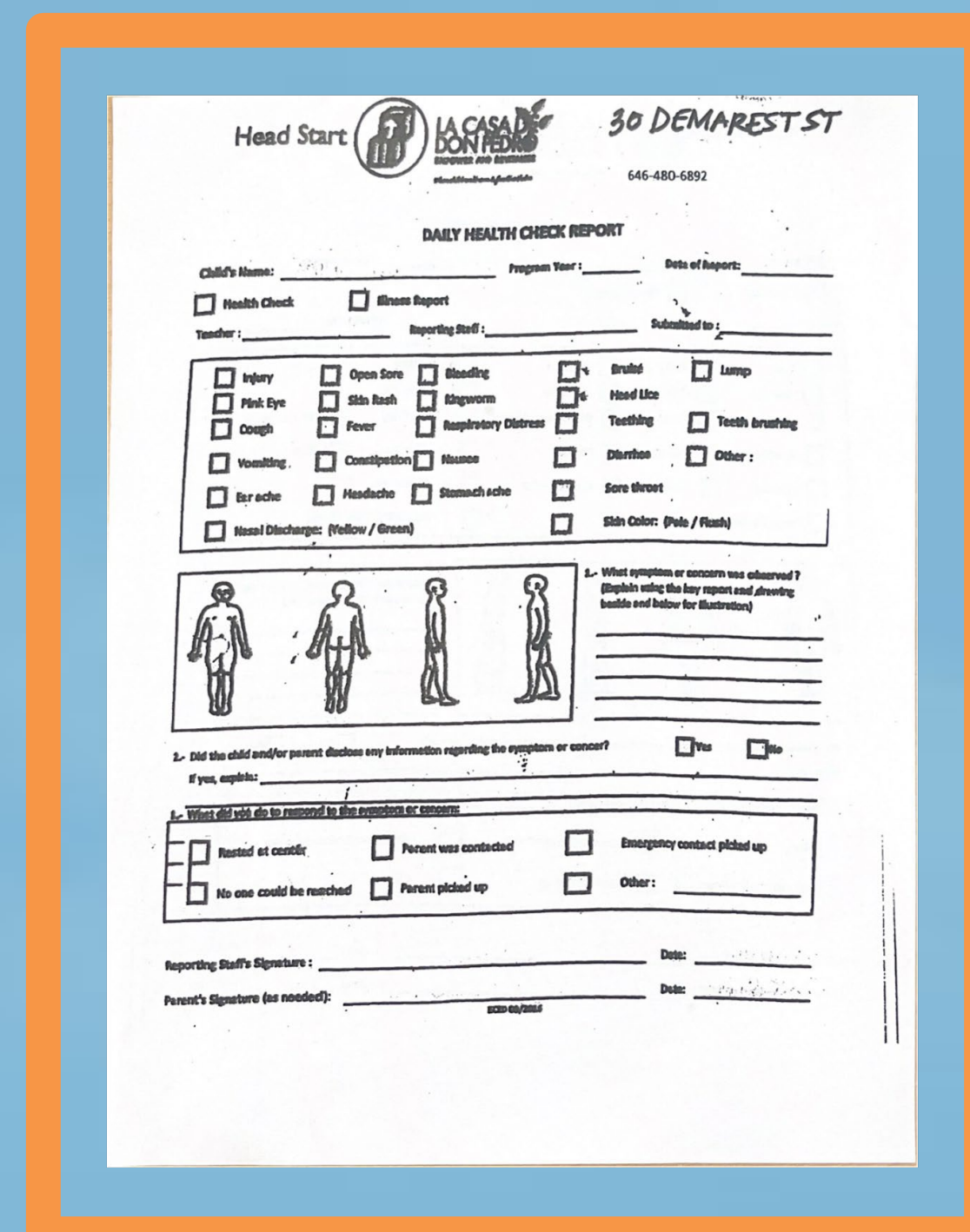
Long term implications:

Many parents of children at La Casa may not have access to these resources. It is crucial to educate families on warning signs/symptoms of vision and hearing loss that may have otherwise gone unnoticed.

Daily Health Check Report



Welch Allyn Vision Screening



Welch Allyn Hearing Screening

Head Start/Early Head Start:

Promotes school readiness of children under 5 years of age by providing supportive, nurturing, and culturally sensitive education. This program is dedicated to income eligible families that fall at or below the federal poverty line and is completely free to participate in.

Workshops for parents to educate on vision/hearing loss prevention

Mandatory screenings at all sites in the beginning of the school year

Providing a list of resources for parents in case of referrals needed

Resources for parents

VISION RESOURCES:

Family Resource Success Center- 274 South Orange Avenue Newark NJ 07102

- Serves as an information and referral hub and links families to services available through local, state, federal governmental agencies and nonprofit agencies. This center provides comprehensive eye exams and glasses if needed.

InfantSEE

- Public health program managed by Optometry Cares, the ADA Foundation. Participating optometrists provide a full eye assessment to children 6-12 months of age regardless of family income or access to insurance coverage. Visit the website to find a provider near you at <https://www.infantsee.org/73soey>
- Eyeglass referral program by OneSight
- Provides vouchers to individuals and families who are unable to afford eyewear. Have visual and financial needs, verified by a non-profit organization (ex. school, church) to receive eyewear at <https://onesight.essilorluxottica.com>

HEARING RESOURCES:

Pediatric Services Program Newark Community Health Centers- 741 Broadway, Newark NJ 07104

- This clinic provides vision and hearing assessments. It uses a sliding scale model with cost depending on family income. Families are required to prove financial need to access free or reduced cost services.

Audiology Department at Children's Specialized Hospital- 182 Lyons Ave, Newark, NJ 07112

- Behavioral observation for children less than six months of age, professional audiologists observe infants' reactions when presented with different sounds. Play audiometry assessment is conducted for children 3-5 years of age and tests their ability to respond to a sound by a play activity. This service accepts Medicaid.

WHAT DO WE DO AT LA CASA?

At La Casa De Don Pedro we conduct free hearing and vision screenings for your child using simple devices to look for any abnormalities in your child's hearing/ vision. Although these devices are reliable, they are not used to diagnose.

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY SIGNS?

Signs of vision loss in children:

- Avoids close up activities such as playing games due to difficulty seeing
- Turns his/her head to see better- may be a sign of astigmatism, myopia, etc.
- Blinks more than usual when doing close up activities
- Holds objects close to eyes

Signs of hearing loss in children:

- Speaks loudly
- Trouble following directions
- Delayed reaction when you call their name
- Abnormal speech
- Delayed language skills

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

If you have noticed any of these signs or have received a call from us due to any abnormalities noticed during the screenings, do not fret! These tools are designed for primary prevention and are not used to diagnose. All that needs to be done is a comprehensive evaluation that we will refer you to.

Community Empowerment

Healthy Homes

Childhood Education



Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank Margaret Morales, Tanya Munyan and all of the center directors and employees at La Casa for working with me and for being extremely helpful during this internship. I would also like to thank Maria Pellerano MA, MBA, MPH, Sarah Kelly MPH, and Denise Rodgers MD for putting this program together and for the educational and interesting workshops. The program appreciates the continuous support from the Office of the RBHS Chancellor, the participating schools, the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at RWJMS, and the community sites.

