



CCNC Pediatrics: Foster Care

Did you know that children in Foster Care are children with Special Healthcare Needs?

Fundamental Principles:

Children and youth in foster care should be seen early

- To assess for signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect
- To assess for presence of acute and chronic illness
- To assess for signs of acute or severe mental health problems
- To monitor adjustment to foster care
- To ensure a child or youth has all necessary medical equipment and medications
- To support and educate parents (foster and birth) and kin

Children and youth in foster care should be seen often upon entry to foster care

- Health screening visit within 72 hours of placement
- Comprehensive health admission visit within 30 days of placement
- Follow-up health visit within 60 to 90 days of placement

Children and youth should have an enhanced health care schedule

- To monitor for signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect
- To monitor a child's or youth's adjustment to foster care and visitation
- To ensure a child or youth has all necessary referrals, medical equipment, and medications
- To support and educate parents (foster and birth) and kin

Children and youth in foster care should be seen often while they are in foster care

- **Monthly** for infants from **birth to age 6 months**
- Every **3 months** for children age **6 to 24 months**
- **Twice a year** for children and youth between **24 months and 21 years of age**

Children and youth in foster care should have comprehensive evaluations

Within 30 days of placement, children and youth in foster care should have the following:

- A mental health evaluation
- A developmental health evaluation if under age 6 years
- An educational evaluation if over age 5 years
- A dental evaluation

Resources:

www.aap.org/fostercare

<http://www.ncped.org/?page=FHNC>

