



DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION

Introduction

Young children between the ages of birth through 5 years go through stages of development at a rapid pace that varies not only from one child to another but also across domains (social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and linguistic). Early and periodic screening ensures children's healthy growth, making sure they are meeting all critical developmental milestones in the early years. Utilizing reliable, valid, and appropriate screening tools affords invaluable information to detect and respond to any potential developmental concerns that may benefit from further evaluation to identify the need for early intervention services or other supports.

The purpose of this overview is to provide a variety of resources to support Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Administrators in meeting the provisions of the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014*.¹

Overview of Reauthorization Language and Guidance

The statute requires States and Territories to provide information regarding developmental screenings as part of consumer education activities. Specifically, the law requires the State to include:

- 1) Information on existing resources and services the State can provide, including the coordinated use of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program and developmental screening services available under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), to conduct developmental screenings and to provide referrals to services for children receiving CCDF assistance, and
- 2) A description of how a family or provider may use these resources to obtain developmental screenings for children who may be at risk of developmental delays. (Office of Child Care, 2015).

¹ The *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014* and section 418 of the *Social Security Act* (42 USC 618), as amended, provide the statutory authority for implementation of the CCDF program as designated by ACF. Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdf-law>.

Developmental Screening Resources²

Documents, Briefs, and Reports

- WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention. (2015). *Developmental and behavioral screening guide for early care and education providers*. San Francisco: WestEd. Retrieved from <http://www.wested.org/resources/cpei-california-early-care-and-education-screening-guide/>.

This guide is designed to increase awareness of and access to screening, services and supports, and referral resources that are available for California's young children and their families. The first section contains an overview and discussion of the provider's role in screening and monitoring within the context of early care and education settings, including:

- ◆ The differences between screening and monitoring;
- ◆ When and why to screen; and
- ◆ How to engage and support families in the process.

The second section features a comprehensive list of developmental and behavioral screening resources that are available online.

- Johnson-Staub, C.. *First steps for early success: State strategies to support developmental screening in early childhood settings*. (2014). Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. Retrieved from <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/State-Strategies-to-Support-Developmental-Screening-in-Early-Childhood-Settings.pdf>.

This brief provides an overview of developmental screening and its value as well as descriptions of the use of screening in a variety of settings, state policies supporting developmental screening in child care and early education, and state policy recommendations.

- Moodie, S., Daneri, P., Goldhagen, S., Halle, T., Green, K., & LaMonte, L. (2014). *Early childhood developmental screening: A compendium of measures for children ages birth to five*. (OPRE Report #2014-11). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/compendium_2013_508_compliant_final_2_5_2014.pdf.

This compendium aims to discuss the purpose of developmental screening and how it differs from child assessment, as well as to "translate" technical information about the reliability and validity of commonly used developmental screening tools into language that is easily understood by early childhood practitioners.

- Early Learning Challenge Technical Assistance. (2013). *Developmental screening: A community of practice*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <https://elc.grads360.org/services/PDCService.svc/GetPDCDocumentFile?fileId=3982>

This document, based on a Webinar, explores efforts in Florida, Oregon, California, and Delaware to expand and enhance developmental screening for children between birth and age 5. The document is a resource of the Developmental Screening community of practice, a collaborative group consisting of RTT-ELC state grantees and technical assistance providers.

- Halle, T., Zaslow, M., Wessel, J., Moodie, S., & Darling-Churchill, K. (2011). *Understanding and choosing assessments and developmental screeners for young children ages 3-5: Profiles of selected*

² Some of the resources may address the topics of screening and assessment but, for the purposes of Reauthorization and this document, only the information related to screening is relevant.

measures. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/screeners_final.pdf.

This compendium includes information regarding the reliability and validity of commonly used assessment and developmental screening tools, and is designed to be useful to managers and staff who work in different types of early childhood education programs and who are responsible for selecting and evaluating assessment or screening instruments.

- Henderson, J. & Strain, P. (2009). *Screening for social and emotional concerns: Considerations in the selection of instruments*. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida. Retrieved from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/docs/roadmap-1.pdf>.

This document provides a brief overview of the use of screening to help administrators and teachers choose appropriate instruments for implementing a screening program.

- Ringwalt, S. (2008). *Developmental screening and assessment instruments with an emphasis on social and emotional development for young children ages birth through five*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute, National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center. Retrieved from <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/screening.pdf>.

This is a compilation of screening instruments for social and emotional development. The information for each instrument includes a description, the age range for which the instrument was validated, the time to administer, the scoring procedure, psychometric properties, and requirements for administrators, and a link to, or address for, the publisher or source of more information.

- Early Head Start National Resource Center. (n.d.). *Developmental screening, assessment, and evaluation: Key elements for individualizing curricula in Early Head Start programs*. (Technical Assistance Paper No. 4.) Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/resources/eclkc_bookstore/pdfs/finaltap%5B1%5D.pdf.

This technical assistance paper defines the concepts of screening, ongoing assessment, and in-depth evaluation; discusses “best practices” related to developmental assessment; and illustrates the connection between developmental assessment and curriculum development.

Webinars

- Early Head Start National Resource Center. (2013). *Developmental Screening, Assessments, and Evaluations*. Washington DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/saeo/DevelopmentalScr.htm>.

This webinar discusses how to integrate data from assessments into daily experiences. Early Head Start staff also learn how to identify behavioral and developmental concerns observed while working with infants and toddlers.

Early Head Start Tip Sheets

- Early Head Start National Resource Center. (2010). *How do we screen premature infants when there is no developmental screening tool that allows for negative age?* (Early Head Start Tip Sheet No. 1.) Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/saeo/intodd_fts_00002_070605.html.
- Early Head Start National Resource Center. (2013). *What is screening? REVISED*. (Early Head Start Tip Sheet No. 6.) Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/saeo/screening.htm>.
- Early Head Start National Resource Center. (2007). *What are "behavioral skills" in infants and toddlers? How do we screen them?* (Early Head Start Tip Sheet No. 27.) Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/saeo/WhatAreBehavior.htm>.

- Early Head Start National Resource Center. (2008). *Do infant and toddler screenings need to be standardized?* (Early Head Start Tip Sheet No. 30.) Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/saeo/DolnfantandTo.htm>.

Additional Resources

- *Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!* is a coordinated federal effort to encourage healthy child development, universal developmental and behavioral screening for children, and support for the families and providers who care for them. Written resources are targeted at early care and education providers, early interventionists, early childhood special education providers, families, primary care providers, communities, child welfare, home visitors, behavioral health providers, and housing and homeless shelter providers. *Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!* resources can be accessed at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/eecd/child-health-development/watch-me-thrive>.

References

- Office of Child Care. (2015). *CCDF reauthorization frequently asked questions*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdf-reauthorization-faq>.

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