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 Resources

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.


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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.
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.


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


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.


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**


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**


**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/ecd/child-health-development/watch-me-thrive.

**References**