

More than Assessments: Supporting Developmental Screening in Early Childhood Education Settings



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Overview

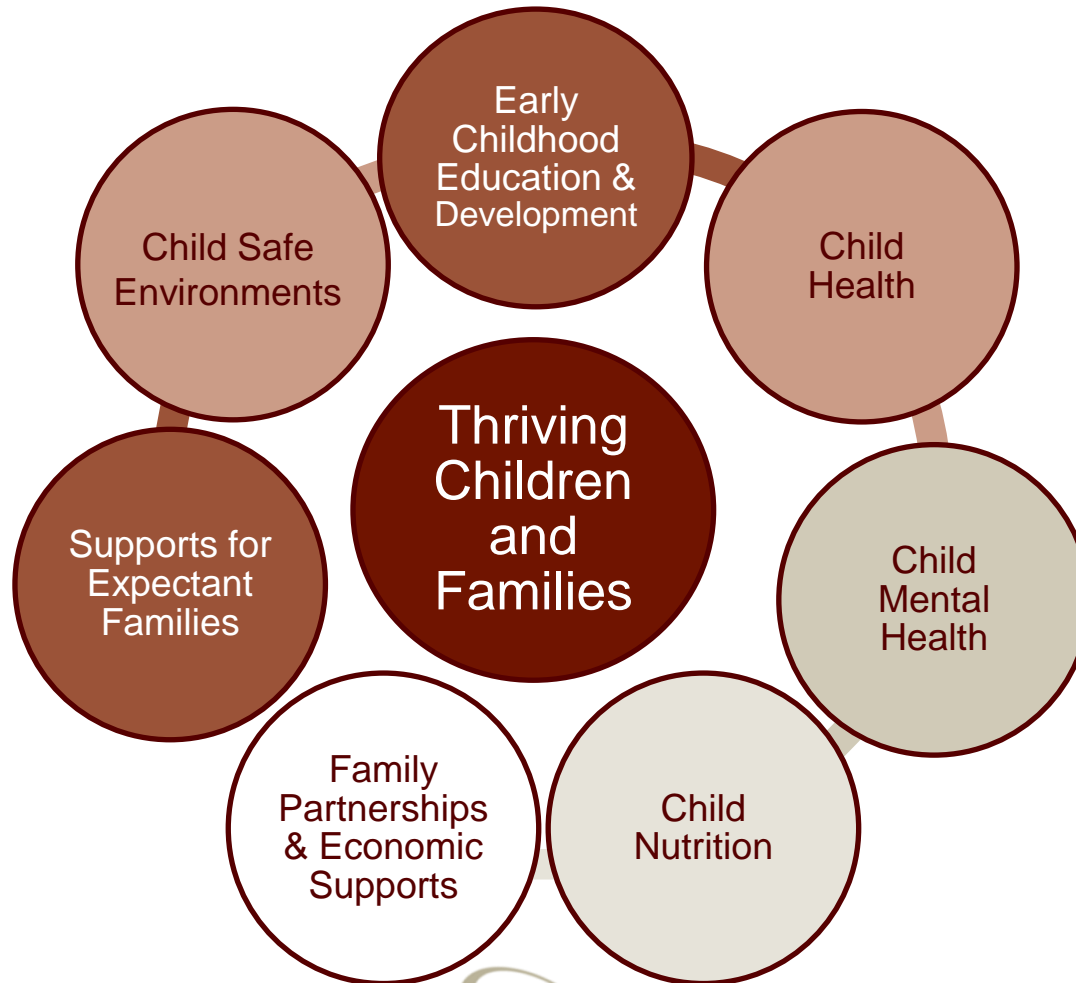
- The importance of developmental screening and comprehensive services.
- Screening opportunities in early childhood settings.
- Financing screening and other services.
- Policy options and considerations.



What Do We Mean By Comprehensive Services?

- Connection and access to **preventive health care services**, such as assistance in connecting to medical homes, preventive dental screenings, and tracking of vaccination and medical screening records;
- Support for **emotional, social and cognitive development**, including screening to identify developmental delays, mental health concerns, and other conditions that may warrant early intervention, mental health services, or educational interventions;
- **Family leadership and support**, including parent leadership development, parenting support, abuse prevention strategies, and connecting families to needed social services.

Early Childhood System Components



Why Comprehensive Services?

- Programs showing lasting benefits of high quality early education focused on whole child and included comprehensive services.
- Increased attention to school readiness, child outcomes, return on investment.
- Increased poverty has increased need for comprehensive services.

Why Child Care Settings?

- Young children are in care for significant portions of time, in different settings, and from an early age.
 - Opportunity to reach young children early.
- Low-income children have less access to health insurance and health services.
- Relationships between caregivers and children and families may provide positive context for delivering preventive services.

A Two-Generation Approach

- Family communication and engagement is key.
- Families can learn to advocate more effectively for their children's needs.
- Families can learn how to better manage their children's health and developmental needs.
- Screening the child may point to needs of others in the family, such as parental mental health issues.
- Referrals to services can benefit the whole family.

What is Developmental Screening?

- One component of EPSDT, required under Medicaid
- Used to flag potential developmental concerns
- Usually a combination of observation and parent report
- Not diagnostic, but can lead to referrals
- Physical (motor skills), social, emotional, speech and language, and cognitive development
- Developmental milestones - not an assessment of what a child knows or can do.

Commonly Used Screening Tools

- ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire), and ASQ-SE
- Denver Developmental Screening Test II (DDST-II)
- Early Screening Inventory-Revised (ESI-R)
- IDA (Infant Toddler Developmental Assessment)
- HELP (Hawaii Early Learning Profile)
- Carolina Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers
- AEPS (Assessment Evaluation & Programming System)
- PLS (Preschool Language Scale)
- Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test
- Rossetti Infant-Toddler Language Scale
- Batelle Developmental Inventory.
- PEDS: Developmental Milestones Measurements For Children 0-8 Years

The Importance Of Screening

- Opportunity to catch problems early
- Identifies the need for health and intervention services.
- Preventive services are more effective than later treatment.
- Engages families and connects families to resources.
- Develops families' capacity to advocate for services and communicate needs.



The Importance of Health Care

- Screening initiatives focus on health care access and Medical Homes
- Pediatrician training and support
- Increased enrollment in Medicaid/CHIP
- EPSDT requirements and coverage
- Professional Development





- Compendium of research-based screening tools
- User's Guides for multiple audiences, including a Guide for communities to support systems
- Electronic pack of resources for follow-up and support
- Partners include Centers for Disease Control, CMMS, NICHD, SAMHSA, Department of Ed.
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/e cd/watch-me-thrive>

Building Capacity for Developmental Screening in Early Childhood

- Health and mental health consultation
- Professional development and support
- Technology initiatives

Developmental Screening in Child Care and Early Education Settings

- Head Start program standards include a broad screening requirement, including developmental.
 - Screening occurs within 45 days of entry
 - Programs must engage parents in the process.
- At least 12 QRIS include developmental screening provisions.
- At least three states include screening in licensing standards.
- Many evidence based home visiting models incorporate developmental screening.

Licensing Requirements

- **Nevada:** *“Identify the need for and referral of a child enrolled in the facility for developmental screening and the referral of the child for diagnostic assessment, if appropriate...”*
- **Pennsylvania:** *Health report signed by physician that includes: “A review of age-appropriate screenings according to the standards of the AAP.”*
- **Vermont:** *“There shall be documented evidence of continuing observation, recording and evaluation of each child’s growth and development.”*

Potential Funding Streams

- Medicaid/SCHIP
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B and C
- CCDBG Quality Dollars
- Maternal and Child Health – Title V
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
- SAMHSA (Project LAUNCH)
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I

Financing Mechanisms

- Using CCDBG quality set-aside dollars for targeted grants
- Tiered reimbursement tied to quality requirements
- Medicaid/managed care reimbursement mechanisms
- Partnerships with other services like public health consultants and home visiting

Race to the Top Initiatives

- States are using RTT dollars to provide training and professional development to teachers and program directors.
- Others are taking steps under RTT to integrate developmental screening into their child care quality improvement policies.
- Some states have proposed using RTT to build capacity and support for coordination of developmental screening.

Potential Medicaid Policies that Promote Developmental Screening

- EPSDT guidelines that mirror the AAP's recommended content and frequency.
- Medicaid reimbursement policies covering developmental screening as a separate service
- Appropriate billing codes and technical assistance around billing codes.
- Allowing community-based organizations that provide developmental screening to bill Medicaid directly.



Rhode Island *Watch Me Grow*

- Providers receive training and support in gaining family permission
- Provide developmental screening on site
- Support to providers in coordinating services to families
 - Informing families about recommended screenings
 - Consulting with families about screening results
 - Helping families work with pediatricians



Pennsylvania QRIS

- All state-registered and certified early care and education programs enrolled in Keystone STARS eligible to participate in early childhood mental health consultation
- Provides support around developmental screening
- Uses Ages and Stages Questionnaire



New York Information Sharing

- HIPPA/FRPA compliant waiver for communication between programs and pediatricians
- Meets privacy requirements that sometimes pose a barrier to coordination
- Child care form reflecting screening recommendations for use in programs
- Public education campaign to promote its use

Illinois Medicaid Coverage

- School districts can bill Medicaid for developmental screening as part of school based services.
- Children's Mental Health Act allows organizations to bill Medicaid for mental health services, including developmental screening.
- Must be an approved provider under Medicaid.



Innovation in Oregon

- County level early learning and health entities share goal of increasing developmental screening and referral.
- Developmental screening rates are measured indicators of success.
- Care Coordination Organizations are able to bill Medicaid.
- Using transitional funds to pay providers up front for developmental screening.
- Share professional development on Ages and Stages Questionnaire.
- Entities share data.

Considerations

- Developmental screening is one aspect of comprehensive services that overlaps across systems.
- While Medicaid can be a major funding source for developmental screening, putting Medicaid policy in place takes time.
- There are other potential funding sources.
- Developmental screening tools aren't always designed for the early childhood classroom – staff need professional development and support.
- Developmental screening requires vigilant referral and follow up to have the desired impact.

Child Care Policy Recommendations

- Fund partnerships with Head Start programs to allow vulnerable children in child care settings, including FFN care, to receive Head Start screening and follow up.
- Create and fund local networks of child care professionals who can conduct developmental screenings in child care.
- Provide professional development and support for providers related to developmental screening.
- Embed developmental screening, referrals, and follow up services into state QRIS standards.
- Partner with the IDEA Part C early intervention Child Find program to identify infants and toddlers with special needs and create linkages with child care providers.

Resources

- *Putting it Together: A Guide to Financing Comprehensive Services in Child Care and Early Education*
 - Includes State Financing Worksheet (editable version available at www.clasp.org/childcare).
- More resources at www.clasp.org/babiesinchildcare, including a summary of research on the importance of developmental screening for infants and toddlers.



CLASP TA on Financing Comprehensive Services

- Identify and provide relevant community and state level data.
- Convene and facilitate stakeholders to identify needs and opportunities in your state.
- Provide more detailed information about lessons from other states.
- Map the current use of federal funding streams in your state, to identify potential partnerships and opportunities.
- Explore additional research topics.

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