

Referral/Evaluation

If a child fails in one of the five areas, explain to the parent that a more in depth evaluation is recommended. Children age 0-5 are referred to Early Intervention for an evaluation. Someone from a local agency that is involved with Early Intervention will contact the family to set up a no cost evaluation.

Support

Many of the program materials, forms and member information pieces are available to providers at no or little cost. They are available on disk or in a format that allows for simple copying.



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Setting the Stage for Success



An Introduction for NC Providers

“A Program to Assure Better Child Health Development”

Research

More than 20 years of research have proven that early intervention produces immediate and long-term benefits for children with disabilities, their families and society. The estimated dollar saving to society is between \$30,000 and \$100,000 per child.

Identification

Identifying children with developmental delays is important in the medical setting. A child's primary care physician is generally the best informed professional with whom many families have regular contact during the child's first five years of life.

Measuring

Child development, a dynamic process, is often difficult to measure. Using only clinical impressions rather than formal screenings leads to under-detection and eliminates the possibility of early intervention.

Recommendation

The AAP Committee on Children with Disabilities recommends the use of standardized screening tests (herein known as, "the tool") at well visits. Types of screens include parent questionnaires, history/interviews and direct elicitation.

Screening....

The "Ages & Stages Questionnaire" (ASQ), a First-Level Screening System or Monitoring Program, was selected based on its practical application for an office setting and its diagnostic elements. A summary of advantages and other details follows.

"Ages & Stages Questionnaire"

ASQ Advantages:

- **Parent Completed** – Parents are partners in their child's assessment and intervention activities
- **Cost-effective** – May be photocopied repeatedly
- **Flexible** – Can be adapted to a variety of environments
- **English and Spanish**
- **4th-6th Grade Reading Level** - illustrations provided
- **Serves as a talking guide with parents**
- **Identifies a child's strengths**
- **Practical - Scoring takes 2-3 minutes** and can be done by paraprofessionals

ASQ Tool:

- **A System of Screens** – available at multiple intervals from 4 months to 60 months
- **Five Areas of Focus** – are compared with empirically derived cutoff points
 1. Communication
 2. Gross Motor
 3. Fine Motor
 4. Problem Solving
 5. Personal -Social

ASQ Scoring:

- **Three Responses:**
 1. Yes (child performs behavior specified in the item) = 10 points
 2. Sometimes (occasional or emerging response from child) = 5 points
 3. Not Yet = 0 points

If the child's total score falls in the shaded portion of the bar graph for any developmental area, further diagnostic assessment is recommended.