

## Developmental Screening in Early Childhood Settings

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NAEYC Annual Conference  
November 5, 2010 – Anaheim, CA



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## Objectives

- Understand why screening is needed.
- Identify what is different about screening, assessment, & diagnosis.
- Become familiar with screening tools that help identify children with developmental, emotional, & behavior problems.
- Develop strategies to implement a screening program.
- Identify community & agency resources that can support screening in your ECE program.

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## Background

Between 11% to 16% of children in the United States have been diagnosed with emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions (National Survey of Children's Health, 2007)

- 66% are boys
- 50% <12 years
- 25% live below Federal poverty level
- 33% also have chronic physical health condition



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## Children With Problems Are Not Identified Early in Life

- 70% of children with developmental disabilities and mental health problems are not identified until school entry (Glascoe, FP, MRDD Research Reviews, 2005)
- One out of 110 children have autism spectrum disorder (ASD)



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## Steps to Identifying Children With Potential Problems

- Surveillance
- Screening
- Evaluation



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## Step 1: Surveillance

**Definition:** The process of recognizing children who may be at risk of developmental delays.

- Observe child's behavior
- Parent discussion: problems at home, concerns about child's behavior, health
- Health history: Primary care provider report of child's medical history and physical examination
- Captures about 30% of children with problems

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## Observations: Socio-Emotional Development

- Observe different behaviors in child care versus home, clinic/office
- Speech and language
- Social skills
- Activity level
- Communication skills
- Peer and adult relationships




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## Step 2: Screening

**Definition:** Use of standardized tool to identify a child at risk of a developmental delay or disorder.

- Identify problems or symptoms early in life
- Involve parents and focus on positive development
- Standardized screening instrument are more accurate than clinical impressions/ observations
- Include all children in the screening program
- Screening instruments are not diagnostic tools

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## Screening Goals & Well Child Care


**Goal:**


- Help identify children with possible developmental delays or disorders who need follow-up
- Help identify children who would benefit from early intervention services

**AAP recommendations for well-child care visits:**

- Surveillance at every visit
- Standardized screening at 9, 18\*, 24\* and/or 30 months, pre-kindergarten

\* Autism screening recommended at 18 and 24 months of age.





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## Screening: Physical Development

Children's physical development is regularly monitored in the primary care provider's office:


- Height and Weight
- Vision and Hearing
- Oral health
- Gross and Fine Motor



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## Types of Problems Identified by Screening Tests


Problem	Screening Test
<b>Behavior and Developmental Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADHD</li> <li>• Aggression</li> <li>• Anger</li> </ul>	<b>Behavior Screening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)</li> <li>• CSBS DP Infant-Toddler Checklist</li> <li>• Parent's Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)</li> <li>• Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC, Jellinek)</li> </ul>

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## Types of Problems Identified by Screening Tests

Problem	Screening Test
<b>Socio-Emotional/ Mental Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Withdrawn/Shy</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Social relationships</li> </ul>	<b>Socio-Emotional Screening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Socio-Emotional (ASQ:SE)</li> <li>– Brief-Infant-Toddler Social-Emotional Assessment (BITSEA)</li> <li>– Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC)</li> </ul>

Socio-emotional screening instruments:  
[www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/screening.pdf](http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/screening.pdf)

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## Types of Problems Identified by Screening Tests

Problem	Screening Test
Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autistic Disorder</li> <li>• Asperger Syndrome</li> <li>• Pervasive Developmental Delay, Not Otherwise Specified</li> </ul>	ASD Screening Tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modified Checklist of Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)</li> <li>• Childhood Asperger Syndrome Test (CAST)</li> </ul>

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## M-CHAT: Does your Child? Yes/ No (16-30 Months)

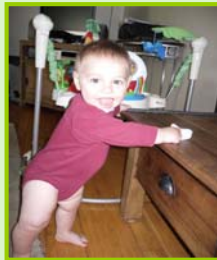
- Take an interest in other children?
- Enjoy playing peek-a-boo or hide-and-seek?
- Use index finger to point or ask for something?
- Look you in the eye for more than 1-2 seconds?
- Smile in response to your face or your smile?
- Respond to his/her name when you call?
- Make unusual finger movements near his/her face?
- Stare at nothing or wander with no purpose?

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## Signs/Indicators in Infants & Toddlers That May Need Further Evaluation

- Does not babble, point, or make meaningful gestures by 1 year
- Does not walk by 16 months
- Does not speak one word by 12 months
- Does not combine two words by 2 years
- Loses language or social skills



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## Positive Screening Test

- Meet with parent/ guardian about concerns
- Explain results of standardized screening test
- Screening test is not diagnostic
  - Avoid labeling child based on screen
- Complete forms to share results with professionals (CCHP Web site: Forms)
- Follow-up with frequent surveillance
- Refer child for further evaluation
  - Rule out hearing and visual impairments

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## Step 3: Evaluation

**Definition:** The complex process aimed at identifying specific developmental disorders that are affecting a child.

- Primary care provider, developmental pediatrician or specialist
- Standardized diagnostic tests
- If diagnosed, refer for early intervention services
- Follow-up with family in ECE program

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## Evaluation for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

### Definition

- Onset prior to 3 years
- Presence of deficits or unusual behaviors within 3 domains:
  1. Reciprocal social interaction
  2. Communication
  3. Restricted, repetitive interests and behaviors.

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## Phases of Screening Program in a Child Care Setting

1. Planning
2. Preparing, Organizing, & Managing
3. Administration & Scoring the Screening Tool
4. Evaluating the Program

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## 1. Planning

- Identify program goals and objectives.
- Partner with parents.
- Communicate with community partners.
  - Health care providers
  - Public health agencies
  - Child care health consultants
- Determine which children will be screened.
- Determine administrative needs.
- Select referral criteria.
  - Depends on screening tool and population.

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## 2. Preparing, Organizing, & Managing

- Create a management system.
- Articulate screening policies & procedures.
- Identify the instruments/ tools to use.
- Develop forms, letters, & a referral guide.
  - Consent to share information.
- Provide staff training & support.
- Identify potential barriers



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## 3. Administration & Scoring

- Assemble instrument and tools needed.
- Identify time and space to administer tools.
- Score the instrument.
- Interpret the results.
- Communicate results with families.
- Determine type of follow-up.



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## 4. Evaluating the Program

- Assess program's goals and objectives.
- Evaluate program effectiveness.
  - Identify # of children referred and follow-up provided.
  - Identify children under surveillance or at risk.
  - Determine extent of parent involvement, parent satisfaction.
- Revise program based on evaluation findings.



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## Federal and Local Programs That Support Screening

- ABCD = Assuring Better Child Health and Development, Commonwealth Fund
- LAUNCH= Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health, SAMSHA
- SECCS = State Early Childhood and Comprehensive Systems, MCHB
- SART (Screening, Assessment, Referral Treatment Program), Local health departments
- EPSTD = Early Periodic Screening and Treatment, Medical
- Others

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## Resources

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## AAP Medical Home: Autism Info

[www.medicalhomeinfo.org/about/cocwd/autism.aspx](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/about/cocwd/autism.aspx)

The screenshot shows the website for the National Center for Medical Home Implementation. The page is titled "Autism Info" and features a navigation menu with options like "ABOUT US", "HOW TO IMPLEMENT", "TRAINING", "STATE PAGES", "NATIONAL INITIATIVES", and "PARTNERS". The main content area includes a search bar, a "Public Service Announcements" section with links for "AAP Autism Health Topics Page", "Autism Clinical Reports", and "General Information". There is also a "Public Service Announcements" section with links for "Identification for Families" and "Identification for Professionals". A "Clinical Reports" section is visible, mentioning "Autism Clinical Reports from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)".

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## Learn the Signs. Act Early.

### Free Materials



Fact Sheets, Resource Kits, Growth Chart, and more...

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## [www.firstsigns.org](http://www.firstsigns.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the First Signs website. The page features a navigation menu with options like "Developmental History", "Developmental Guidelines", "Autism", "Screening", "Diagnosis", "Early Intervention", and "First Signs". The main content area includes a "First Signs" logo, a "Could It Be Autism?" section with a link to "A Parent's Guide to the First Signs and Next Steps", and a "ADD Video Glossary | In Your State | Research | Resources | Products" section. There are also sections for "Our Mission" and "What's new and worth knowing about...".

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## Autism Resources

- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) [www.firstsigns.org](http://www.firstsigns.org)
- M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview [www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr/Diana\\_L.\\_Robins,\\_Ph.D.\\_files/M-CHATInterview.pdf](http://www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr/Diana_L._Robins,_Ph.D._files/M-CHATInterview.pdf)
- Autism spectrum disorder foundation/ Asperger Tools [www.autismspectrumdisorderfoundation.org/aspergersscreeningtools.html](http://www.autismspectrumdisorderfoundation.org/aspergersscreeningtools.html)
- Autism Speaks [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

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## Healthy Child Care America

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the Healthy Child Care America website. The page features a navigation menu with options like "About Us", "Health Care Professionals", "Child Care Centers", "Early Education & Child Care Professionals", "Families", "AAP Policies & Standards", "Special Programs", "Research & Data", and "Contact Us". The main content area includes a "What's New!" section with links for "New available for purchase through the AAP bookstore: Promoting Childhood Quality in Early Care and Education Programs", "October Standard of the Month: Intervention Documentation", "New PowerPoint presentation on the 'medical home'", and "New available for CCOCA!". There is also a "State Administrators" and "ECCO Coordinators" section.

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## Healthy Child Care America [www.healthychildcare.org](http://www.healthychildcare.org)

Developmental  
Screening in Early  
Childhood Systems  
Summary Report  
March, 2009



[www.healthychildcare.org/pdf/DSECSreport.pdf](http://www.healthychildcare.org/pdf/DSECSreport.pdf)

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## Resource Library [www.healthychildcare.org](http://www.healthychildcare.org)

Search through a  
wealth of resources  
on early education  
and child care by:

- Topic
- Type
- AAP resources
- Materials for families

**Resource Library**

Welcome to the Resource Library! Here you can find many resources related to early education and child care.

Simply select the criteria for the resource you would like. The number of filters selected will determine if your search results are more broad or more specific. Click "GO" to see your results.

External Resources are not a part of the HEALTHYCHILD CARE CMS site. AAP is not responsible for the content of sites that are external to the AAP. Linking to a third site does not constitute an endorsement by AAP of the sponsor of the site, or the information presented on the site.

TOPIC	TYPE
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Health Consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> Video
<input type="checkbox"/> Childcare Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Form / Letter / Checklist
<input type="checkbox"/> Children with Special Needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Handout
<input type="checkbox"/> Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Media (CD, Video, etc)
<input type="checkbox"/> Discipline / Positiveness	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> Funding	<input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint
<input type="checkbox"/> Infectious Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Injury Prevention	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Medication Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Medication Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Tool / Toolkit
<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Oral Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Web site
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Activity	<input type="checkbox"/> AAP Materials Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Materials for Families Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Social & Emotional Health	
<input type="checkbox"/> SIDS / Safe Sleep	
<input type="checkbox"/> Standards & Regulations	

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## California Childcare Health Program [www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org](http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org)

Health and Safety Notes

- Autism – English & Spanish
- Confidentiality

Forms

- Consent for release of information and referral
- Consent for exchange of information



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## Screening Can Change a Child's Life Course



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