

Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive!

Developmental and Behavioral Screening and Support

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Early Childhood
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



The Issue

- **1 in 4 children**, age 0-5 years, are at moderate or high risk for developmental, behavioral, or social delay
- AAP recommends screening of all children for developmental, behavioral, and social delays at 9, 18, and 24 or 30 months
- Less than 50% of pediatricians use valid and reliable screening tools
- Pediatricians cannot do it alone— a coordinated system of care is needed to achieve universal developmental and behavioral screening and support



Making sure all of our youngest children are screened and given support *early* are important priorities for the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education.



Public awareness of child development and the importance of families is critical.



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The Partners



- Administration for Children and Families
- Administration for Community Living
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- National Institute for Child Health and Human Development
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Office of Special Education Programs, Department of Education

Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive! Strategy

- Coordinated public outreach campaign to promote awareness of child development and developmental and behavioral screening, referral, and follow-up.
- Key messages of the campaign include:
 - Celebrating developmental milestones
 - Implementing universal developmental and behavioral screening and support
 - Improving early detection
 - Enhancing developmental supports



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Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive consists of three components:

1. **A compendium** that reviews implementation, reliability and validity characteristics of screening instruments;
2. **User guides**, designed for providers from multiple sectors as well as the communities in which they live, to assist in selecting screening instruments;
3. ***Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive! Toolkit***, a collection of resources to bring awareness to parents and providers about child development, screening, and where to find services and supports locally if a concern exists.

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Compendium

- First line screening instruments for children, birth to 5 years
- Includes a series “at a glance” tables and individual profiles for each tool.
- Information such as cost, administration time, evidence quality level, training required, languages available, subpopulations in which tools have been validated, and age range covered, is include.
- Can be used by early care and education providers, pediatricians, medical providers, home visitors, child welfare case workers, mental or behavioral health professionals, early intervention specialists, and various others professionals that serve young children and families

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Compendium

- **Compendium Inclusion Criteria:**
 - Designed for the purpose of screening (not child assessment).
 - Appropriate for use with children between birth and age five.
 - Cover multiple developmental domains (i.e. physical/motor, cognitive, language/communication, social-emotional development).
 - Available for use by early childhood professionals
 - Include family input
 - High quality psychometrics: Sensitivity and specificity of 0.7 or greater

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User Guides

Designed to accompany the compendium of tools and include information on:

- Developmental milestones
- Screening, monitoring and surveillance
- How to engage families in the process
- How and where to refer if concerns are detected
- How to choose the appropriate tool to fit the need



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User Guides

- Guides included consistent messaging and themes, but were individually tailored for use across various sectors and professionals. Guides were developed for:
 - Early childhood teachers
 - Home visitors
 - Primary care providers
 - Behavioral health providers
 - Child welfare case workers
 - Housing and homeless shelter providers
 - Local and community-level policy makers



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Family Screening Passport

- Akin to an immunization card, the screening passport helps families keep track of their child's screening history.
- Encourages families to share their child's screening results with their child's doctor and other service providers who work with or care for the child, such as child care providers and early interventionists.
- Intended to reduce duplication in screenings and promote a “system of care”.



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Toolkit

- The electronic *Watch Me Thrive Toolkit* include a collection of Federal resources to bring awareness to multiple audiences about child development, including:
 - Information on developmental milestones
 - Milestone checklists and tracking tools
 - Tips for caregivers to promote healthy development
 - Guidance for finding help locally
 - Fact sheets on specific developmental disabilities or delays
 - Learning modules for a variety of providers



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Evaluation

- CDC is leading the evaluation effort and a comprehensive plan to measure impact is under development;
- Each partner agency is measuring dissemination reach through their technical assistance networks and stakeholders;
- Web analytics;
- The *Help Me Grow Network* is tracking change in referral numbers;
- Track screening numbers in large national data sets (e.g. National Survey of Children with Special Healthcare Needs)



Questions?

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www.hhs.gov/watchmethrive