Wisconsin Early Childhood
Collaborating Partners

Developmental Screening Tip Sheets

Tip Sheet 2
Selecting a Screening Tool

Consider the following criteria when selecting a tool for screening young children's development in your community:

1. It is a parent-completed instrument. It promotes parents' understanding of child development and communication with professionals caring for their child.

2. It is easily and reliably used in the field by both professionals and parents. It is affordable, and training on the tool is available.

3. It allows for consistent and efficient use of best practice guidelines across organizations, supports referral and reduces screening duplication. Ideally, the tool selected is used by multiple community partners and thereby facilitates communication and timely referral of children with concerning screening results to appropriate supports and services.

4. The tool has comparatively strong psychometric properties with sensitivity and specificity of at least 70 to 80%.

5. The tool has been normed using a large number of children representative of cultural groups and populations where the tool will be used.

Members of the **Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners** (WECCP) reviewed many general developmental screening tools. Two tools met the five criteria listed above:

- ***Ages and Stages Questionnaires®,* Third Edition *(ASQ-3™)*★**
  By Jane Squires, Ph.D., & Diane Bricker, Ph.D., with assistance from Elizabeth Twombly, M.S., Robert Nickel, M.D., Jantina Clifford, Ph.D., Kimberly Murphy, Robert Hoselton, LaWanda Potter, M.S., Linda Mounts, M.A., & Jane Farrell, M.S

- ***Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)***

★ *In Wisconsin as of 2011, both tools meet the above criteria, but currently only the ASQ-3™ is used widely across sectors.*

Why is developmental screening important?
Routine universal screening of young children with a validated tool promotes a better understanding of each child's development. Early identification of potential delays allows for timely access to appropriate supports and services promoting optimal development for every child.

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Tip Sheet 2 *(continued)*
Selecting a Screening Tool

What's next for your team?

Which developmental screening tool is right for your community?

For more information:

- **ASQ-3™ User Guide**
  tinyurl.com/ASQ3UserGuide
- **Blueprint for a Comprehensive and Aligned System of Screening and Assessment of Young Children**
  tinyurl.com/ECACBlueprint
- **Early Head Start**
  Do Infant and Toddler Screenings Need to be Standardized?
  tinyurl.com/StandardizedScreenings
- **PEDS**
  http://www.pedstest.com
- **WECCP Screening/Early Identification**
  Professional and Community Resources
  tinyurl.com/EarlyID

"Parents," throughout, refers to parents, family members who are primary care givers, guardians and/or foster parents.
Developmental screening is most effective when integrated into the context of families and local communities. Engaging families in the process of development screening in a way that honors their cultural and linguistic practices will result in more accurate identification of potential delays and increased follow through with referrals. After all, parents are the most important people in a child's life.