



Tip Sheet 4

Engaging Stakeholders in Developmental Screening

What are meaningful roles for stakeholders?

There are many meaningful roles for all stakeholders in a developmental screening system. Each partner can decide what they are ready to do as part of a coordinated effort, but not everyone will necessarily be conducting development screening.

Consider how each partner plays a role:

- Connecting families with young children to a screening system at different points in time
- Strengthening referral and communication lines
- Supporting training, professional development, coaching, consultation and/or a community of practice



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.

Partnership dialogues and shared resources create more effective prevention, intervention and support services for families. Some partners will provide developmental screening, while others will not.

Who might those partners be?

Partners Serving Children and Families

- Birth to Three Program
- Child Care (Group & Family)
- Child Care (Resource and Referral)
- Community Action Agencies
- Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs)
- Family Resource Centers
- Head Start (Traditional, Early, Migrant, Seasonal and Tribal)
- Health Related Services - County and Tribal
- Home Visitation Programs
- Parent Education Programs
- Medical Clinics, Health Departments
- Regional Centers for Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Schools - Special Education, 4K

Related Allies

- Child Welfare Agencies
- Community Action Agencies
- Faith Communities
- Food Security Advocates
- Housing/Homeless Services
- Migrant Services
- Parent Advocacy Groups
- Philanthropy



Tip Sheet 4 (continued)

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Which community partners should be involved in this effort?

The answer to this question depends upon your community. Typically the work begins with existing relationships, either in a single agency or among partners. Community Early Childhood Councils are a logical fit. You'll want to be sure that you have representatives from most of the sectors that touch the lives of children.

What's next for your team?

Who are your partners and what are their roles in a universal screening initiative?

For more information:

- **Slide Deck: Child Find Ideas that Work**
tinyurl.com/ChildFindPPT
- **Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory**
tinyurl.com/CollaborationFactors
- **Wisconsin Child Find**
tinyurl.com/WisconsinChildFind

"Parents," throughout, refers to parents, family members who are primary caregivers, 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.