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Developmental Monitoring and Screening

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Learner Objectives

- Identify 2 places to refer a family when concerned when is a child is at risk for a developmental delay.
- List 3 different screening tools available to help perform developmental monitoring.
- List 3 reasons why developmental monitoring is important to a child’s development.
Importance of Early Identification

- Brain plasticity
  - Tremendous growth between birth and age 4
  - Early behavioral intervention associated with normalized brain activity (Dawson, 2012)
- Improved outcomes for children who receive early intensive behavioral intervention (Reichow, 2011, Rogers & Vismara, 2008)
- Parents/Caregivers of children with autism often experience greater levels stress and isolation (Brookman-Frazee et al. 2006)

National Focus on Identifying Children with Developmental Delays Early

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children be screened for ASD at 18 months to 24 months
- Improved diagnostic tools for identifying children at younger ages (2 years)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Act Early Campaign
- U.S. Department of Education (B-5 Watch me Thrive)
What is Developmental Monitoring?

- Tracking and keeping a record of your students’ development in collaboration with other team members and parents.
- Any concerns noted by team members, parents or other providers should be followed up with a developmental screening and if necessary evaluation.
- Used to celebrate milestones, promote screenings and identify supports.

What is Developmental Monitoring?

- A structured way to track a child’s physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being

- Happens consistently over time

- Also known as “developmental surveillance”
Why we Monitor?

- 1 in 4 children are at risk for a developmental delay or disability
- Allows for early intervention
  - Identify supports to put in place
  - Decrease chances for secondary delays
  - Less funding spent in later years because focus is early on
- Gives us an idea of what to expect in development

Why is Developmental Monitoring So Important?

- Can be the earliest indication that a child may have a developmental delay.
- Helps ensure all children who need support get access to developmental screenings & supports as soon as possible.
- Reassures parents when a child is developmentally appropriate or, more critically, helps to identify when a child needs further evaluation.
What is a Developmental Screening?

- A short screening that is conducted to determine if a child is developing on time and on track
  - Not always obvious if a child needs more specific help with their development
- It should be completed whenever there is a concern
- Specific tools include:
  - ASQ – Ages and Stages
  - DP3 – Developmental Profile 3
  - M-Chat – Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers
  - ECSA – Early Childhood Screening Assessment
  - SDQ – Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire
- Can guide a family and team to go on for further evaluations

Why we Monitor, Screen and Evaluate

- Early identification is critical to the well being and development of children and their families.
- Delays can be caused by specific conditions and can indicate the child could have an increased risk of challenging behaviors and possibly further delays.
- Early identification can lead to further evaluation which can lead to treatment and intervention.
Who can Conduct Monitoring and Developmental Screenings?

- Health Care Providers
- Teachers/Therapists
- Early Childhood Providers
- Parents

Screening Tools that are Available

- There are numerous screening tools available
- Do your research on:
  - Age range
  - Cost
  - Time limit
  - How often the screening can be given
  - Who can conduct the screening
Where to get materials for Developmental Monitoring and Screening

- CDC – Learn the Signs Act Early Campaign
  - Developmental checklist
  - Handouts and materials for families
    https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html

- Academy of Pediatrics – Screening time
  - List of screening tools
  - Cost, time and type
    https://screeningtime.org/star-center/

Developmental Screening Tools

**M-CHAT**
- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers
- Autism screening
- 5-10 minutes
- Free

**ASQ**
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- Overall development
- 15-20 minutes
- $225 for a kit
Developmental Screening Tools

**DP3**
- Developmental Profile 3
- Overall development
- 20-40 minutes
- $286 for kit

**ECSA**
- Early Childhood Screening Assessment
- Social emotional
- 5-10 minutes
- Free

Developmental Screening Tools

**SDQ**
- Strengths and Difficulty Questionnaire
- Social Emotional Screening
- 10 minutes
- Free

More in depth list visit:
- [https://screeningtime.org/star-center/#/screening-tools](https://screeningtime.org/star-center/#/screening-tools)
Free Milestone Tracking Tool Kits

Developmental Milestone for 9 Months

What Babies Do

- Have favorite toy
- Understands no
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Sits without support
Developmental Milestones for 24 Months

What 2 year old's do
- Copies others actions
- Points to items to show
- 2-4 word sentences
- Builds a 4 block tower

Developmental Milestones for 36 Months

What 3 year old's do
- Separates easily from parents
- Follows 2 step instruction
- Plays make believe
- Pedals a tricycle
Developmental Milestones for 48 Months

**What 4 year old's do**
- Plays with other children
- Tells stories
- Names some colors
- Stands on one foot

Milestone Checklists
How to use a Milestone Checklist

- Sit with parents and go through each section of the hand out.
- Ask for specific examples or try to observe the child do the item on the list.
- Pay close attention to the Act Early section when a child is not making developmental milestones.

Review How to Help Your Child

- List of activities that can be done with the child
- Activities are great for both home and school
Milestone Moments Booklet

Parent Kit

Materials specially packaged for parents - includes one growth chart and one Milestone Moments booklet (English or Spanish).

Ask parents to order a free parent kit, so they can track their child’s development at home using Milestone Moments and the Growth Chart.
Next Steps to Getting a Child Identified

- Child is screening at risk
- Refer families on for further evaluation. This evaluation is more in-depth, comprehensive and testing is completed by a specifically trained or licensed clinician or professional
- Refer to
  - Private agency/clinic
  - Part C services
  - Part B services

Part C Services

- If a child is under the age of three….
  - Parent can contact early intervention program in their state for further assessment.
  - If a child qualifies for services they can begin receiving special education services.

- Day 2 Day Parenting has a list of resources for Part C services and contact info by state
  - http://day2dayparenting.com/early-intervention-contacts-state/
Part B Services

- Once a child turns the age of three...
- Parents can contact their local public school for further assessment and to determine eligibility for special services. The public school provides assessments through Child Find. For those children who qualify, the public school will provide services through their special education programs.

Talking with Parents

- Tips for talking with parents
  - Ideas on how to start a conversation when concerned
  - Things to remember when having a tough conversations
- Developmental screening and monitoring
  - What it is and why we use it
  - Conditioned specific fact sheet
Summary

- 1 in 4 children are at risk for developmental delays.
- Developmental monitoring is the first way to identify when a child is at risk for delays.
- There are several different screening tools and checklists available based on age, developmental need and cost.
- Once a child has been identified as being at risk, refer them to Part C or Part B services for further testing.

References

- Learn the Signs Act Now--- CDC
  https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html
- Watch Me Thrive Birth to 5
  https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/child-health-development/watch-me-thrive
- Day 2 Day Parenting
  http://day2dayparenting.com/early-intervention-contacts-state/
- Academy of Pediatrics
  https://screeningtime.org/star-center/#/screening-tools
Questions

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