

Developmental Screening

Screening is the first step in childhood assessment. The function of screening is to identify children who are at risk for delays and need further testing. Screening tools do not identify children who have delays. However, they are a brief, inexpensive, and reliable tool for identifying children who need more comprehensive testing. Also, screening tools are designed to be completed by caregivers, teachers, trainers, coaches, or other practitioners.

The following are behaviors that may signal a social emotional concern in young children:

- Frequent, intense tantrums (several per day that result in the child getting red in the face)
- Tantrums that last more than 10 minutes
- Frequent aggression
- Throwing toys or destroying materials
- Difficulty following directions, or accepting help from adults
- Frequent unexplained crying
- Overly shy around new people
- Difficult to comfort when upset
- Hard to distinguish whether happy or sad
- Difficulty following routines or changes in routines

Below are online resources to further explore and better understand social-emotional screening and referral. Use this information to learn more about how you can support young children in your care.

Useful Resources on Social Emotional Screening and Referral:

- National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (<http://www.nectac.org/>)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Act Early Campaign (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>)
- First Signs, Inc. (<http://www.firstsigns.org/>)
- Technical Assistance Center for Social-Emotional Intervention (<http://www.challengingbehavior.org/>)
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (<http://www.ecmhc.org/>)