EARLY IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

DID YOU KNOW?
The medical home is the ideal setting for developmental screening

California ranks
30th in the country for screening infants and toddlers
44th for screening children living below the federal poverty level

Only 28.5% of children in California receive timely developmental screenings

1 in 68 children are at risk for an autism spectrum disorder
1 in 4 children under the age of 6 in California are at moderate- or high-risk for developmental, behavioral, or social delays

Too often developmental delays go undetected. Developmental screening at AAP recommended well-child visits will catch delays earlier, making treatment more effective.
The American Academy of Pediatrics Practice Recommends:

**DEVELOPMENTAL SURVEILLANCE** during every well-child visit.

**DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS** at 9, 18, and 24/30 months.

**AUTISM-SPECIFIC SCREENING** at 18 and 24 months.

**REFERRAL** for evaluation and early intervention services when a risk is identified.

Using a well-validated developmental screening tool during routine healthcare visits increases referral and identification rates for children with developmental delays and supports linkage to early intervention services.

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**Recommended Tools for Developmental Screening:**

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<th>Number of Questions</th>
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<td>ASQ-3</td>
<td>30 (6 each area)</td>
<td>21 age-based forms</td>
<td>2 months–5 years</td>
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<td>English, Spanish, French; ASQ PTI also available in Somali and Hmong</td>
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<td>PEDS</td>
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**PROVEN PARENT-REPORT METHODOLOGY.**

Research shows that parents are reliable reporters of their child's development.

**EASY TO USE AND SCORE**

Screening results that indicate a concern will require further assessment and referral for necessary services.

**Risk factors which may contribute to a delay**

- Prematurity of less than 32 weeks or low birth weight
- Environmental factors such as neglect and abuse
- Prenatal or other exposure to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
- Children with an orthopedic, vision, or hearing impairment
- Poor nutrition or difficulties eating
- Exposure to lead-based paint

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**Recommended Tools for Developmental Screening:**

- **ASQ-3**
  - Ages and Stages 3rd Edition
  - brookespublishing.com/asq

- **PEDS**
  - Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status
  - PEDStest.com

- **M-CHAT**
  - Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised (M-CHAT-R/F)™
  - M-CHAT.org

**Number of Questions**

- 30 (6 each area)
- 10
- 20

**Variety of Survey**

- 21 age-based forms
- Single form, all ages
- Single form, all ages

**Parent Completion**

- 2 months–5 years
- 0–8 years
- 16–30 months

**Provider Score & Interpret Time**

- 10–20 minutes
- 2 minutes
- 5 minutes

**Languages**

- English, Spanish, French; ASQ PTI also available in Somali and Hmong
- English, Spanish, Vietnamese; Others with license
- English, Spanish, Chinese, & Korean; Others with license
Why is Developmental Screening in YOUR Practice Important?

Screening early leads to more successful long-term outcomes

Children who receive early treatment for developmental delays are more likely to be ready for kindergarten, successful in school, and live independently

YOU are often the first line of defense

Approximately 25–30% of problems noted by parents during well-child visits are developmental and behavioral in nature

Families feel supported

Families report higher levels of satisfaction and support for physicians who offer developmental screening

BEFORE TURNING 3, CHILDREN SHOULD BE SCREENED A MINIMUM OF THREE TIMES.

Feedback from an Expert

Ventura pediatrician, Dr. Sun Lee, began using the ASQ-3 in 2011. He has extensive experience with this tool and has found:

1. Easy for parents
   Parents typically only need minor clarifications about how to complete the ASQ-3

2. Quick to score
   Completion of the tool has never taken him longer than 2–3 minutes

3. Essential for identification
   All evidence indicates that, without a screening tool, physicians often miss many signs of developmental delays

Screening is COVERED

Developmental Screening can be billed using CPT billing code 96110 or ICD-10 Z13.4. This covers the time a physician scores, reviews results, and interprets findings.

Federal health reform law requires insurance plans to cover developmental and behavioral screenings at no cost to children. Medicaid (Medi-Cal) also covers screenings as part of children’s preventive services.
Adapted from materials by Help Me Grow Ventura County and First 5 Ventura County

Helping children achieve their optimal, healthy development by offering: screening follow-up support, resource connections, referral assistance and care coordination in multiple languages.

Help Me Grow
Orange County
(866) 476-9025
www.helpmegrowoc.org

Help Me Grow California

Helping children achieve their optimal, healthy development by offering: screening follow-up support, resource connections, referral assistance and care coordination in multiple languages.

First 5 Association of California

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