

Sharing Screening Results with Families

Elizabeth Wahl, MSW, APSW
Birth to 3 Professional Development Specialist
Waisman Center UCEDD

Learning Objectives

- Understand how to share screening results with families sensitively
- Understand the difference between screening results and diagnostic evaluation
- Consider specific language to use when sharing concerning results
- Understand next steps to offer families after concerning screening results are shared

What Is Developmental Screening?

Developmental screening is the administration of a brief standardized tool that aids the identification of children at risk of a developmental disorder

Developmental screening *does not* result in either a diagnosis or treatment plan but rather identifies areas in which a child's development differs from same-age norms

Why Screen

- Provide reassurance, or discuss concerns
- Screen to Intervene
- Screens should always OPEN doors for children and families

Talking with Families: Presenting news in a thoughtful and caring manner

- Why is it important?
- Why is it difficult?
- How do we do it?



Why Is It Important?

- Children develop in the context of relationships
- Parents are the child's most important caregivers
- Early relationships matter

Why Is It So Difficult?

- Emotions
- Stigma
- Denial



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Do's and Don'ts

- Don't Shame.....Do Validate
- Don't Blame.....Do Reassure
- Don't Proclaim.....Do Provide Referral

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How Do We Do It?

- **Ask** parents whether they prefer to have their child present for the conversation
- **Share** the results of the screening
 - "Reassuring," "Borderline," or "Concerning"
 - Describe observations ("I've noticed...")
- **Choose** your language carefully
 - Point out strengths
 - Be clear about concerns

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How Do We Do It?

- **Check in** with parents to learn if their perceptions & experiences match results
- **Be supportive** and non- judgmental
 - I hear what you're saying..
 - I noticed that, too....
- **Inquire** if parents have other questions or concerns

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How Do We Do It?

- **Remind** parents that screenings are not diagnostic
- **Reassure** parents that screening results will only be used to support the child and their family
- **Be ready** to help families take next steps

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Tips to Keep in Mind

- Listen actively
 - Stop
 - Look
 - Listen
 - Respond
- Empathize
- Have a plan



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Next Steps For a Concerning Screening Result

- Early Intervention (ages 0-3)
- Early Childhood Education Services (ages 3-6)
- Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (MCH)
- Medical specialists / Interdisciplinary teams
- Primary care providers
- Child care providers

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For more information

Early Identification of Developmental Concerns Website
www.collaboratingpartners.com/EarlyID/development.htm

AAP site on Early Identification and Developmental Screening
www.aap.org/healthtopics/early.cfm

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Ask a Question



Viewing online?

- Click on the envelope above
- Question emailed to Training Team
- Questions answered by expert on topic
- Response within 2-3 weeks



Viewing at a live training?

- Organizer shares questions with Training Team

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Acknowledgements



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Wisconsin
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www.wisconsinmch.org



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Children and Youth with
Special Health Care Needs

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