

# DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TOOLS IN HOME VISITING PROGRAMS



## WHAT ARE SCREENING TOOLS?

Screening tools are brief, standardized assessments of a child's development. They are used to identify concerns about a child's learning or development. Home visitors may use the results to make referrals for evaluation and services, and work with families to support their child's development. **Screening tools do not provide a diagnosis.**

## HOW DO SCREENING TOOLS WORK IN HOME VISITING?

**Timing:** Screening should be conducted for children 9–30 months old, and follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended age intervals (at minimum, when the child is 9 months, 18 months, and 24 or 30 months old) and as concerns arise. Timing varies depending on the assessment tool used.

**Type of measurement tool:** Most screening tools are in the form of surveys (such as checklists or rating scales that parents fill out) or direct assessment of child skills. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program requires home visiting programs to use parent-reported developmental screening tools.

**Integration with other home visiting services:** Home visitor screening should be coordinated with ongoing developmental monitoring and information gathered from parents over the course of the home visiting relationship.

## WHY ARE SCREENING TOOLS HELPFUL?

Screening is the first step to ensure that eligible children receive timely early intervention services during critical periods of development. Early detection, follow-up evaluation, and connection to services can help children get support to succeed in educational and social environments. Without these steps, unaddressed concerns can grow into larger problems.

Home visiting programs serve many children at risk for developmental delay. They are uniquely positioned to connect eligible families to follow-up assessment. They can also connect families to community and/or Part B or C early intervention services.

## WHEN SELECTING A SCREENING TOOL, KEEP IN MIND:

- Many states require publicly funded home visiting programs to use a specific screening tool such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ).
- MIECHV requires home visiting programs to conduct developmental screening in a timely manner using a validated tool that is completed by parents.
- MIECHV programs should screen for developmental delay in cognitive, social, language, sensory, and emotional domains. Some screening tools focus on specific domains while others cover multiple domains.



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### CAN THE IMPACT MEASURES TOOL® HELP ME FIND A SCREENING TOOL TO USE IN HOME VISITING?

Yes! Below is a list of screening tools currently reviewed on the IMPACT Measures Tool®. The information about each tool includes domains covered, time to administer, age range, and more. We also use a science-backed approach to assign a score for the cost, usability, cultural relevance, and technical merit of each measure. This can help programs identify tools that are a good fit for their community.

Screening Tools
<b>Overall Child Development (multiple domains)</b>
Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Children, Third Edition (AEPS®-3)
Ages and Stages Questionnaires® - 3rd Edition - Arabic (ASQ®-3-Arabic)
Ages and Stages Questionnaires® - 3rd Edition - Spanish (ASQ®-3-Spanish)
Ages and Stages Questionnaires® - 3rd edition (ASQ®-3)
Battelle® Developmental Inventory 3rd Edition Developmental Screening Test (BDI-3™ Screening Test)
Denver II
Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning™ Fourth Edition (DIAL™-4) - Performance Areas
Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Preschool Program (DECA-P)
Devereux Early Childhood Assessment-Infant (DECA-I)
Devereux Early Childhood Assessment-Toddler (DECA-T)
Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory™ (ECBI™)
Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers™ (M-CHAT™)
Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)
Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status: Developmental Milestones (PEDS-DM)
Speed DIAL-4-English
Speed DIAL-4-Spanish
Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Children, Third Edition (AEPS®-3)
<b>Social-Emotional Development</b>
Ages and Stages Questionnaires® - Social-Emotional - 2nd edition (ASQ®-SE-2)
Brief Infant-Toddler Social and Emotional Assessment (BITSEA)
Child Behavior Checklist/1½-5 (CBCL/1½-5)
Infant-Toddler Social and Emotional Assessment (ITSEA)
<b>Language Skills</b>
MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories (CDI) Words and Gestures
MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories (CDI) Words and Sentences

\*Listing above was informed by available documentation from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and other sources. It does not guarantee that a tool by itself will be sufficient for meeting MIECHV reporting requirements.



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## REFERENCES

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- U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. (2022). *The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program: Form 2 Performance Indicators and Systems Outcomes Toolkit*. Retrieved July 1, 2022 from <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/programs-impact/form-2-performance-measurement-toolkit.pdf>
- U.S. Office of Management and Budget. (2022). *OMB: 0906-0017: The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program: Form 2 Performance and Systems Outcomes Measures*. Retrieved July 1, 2022 from <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/programs-impact/form-2-benchmark-performance.pdf>

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