ADVOCACY IDEAS: A ROAD MAP TO SERVICES

WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE ARE CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

Knowing how to help your child when there is a concern about their development can feel overwhelming. This guide is designed to help you navigate the process.

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WHERE CAN I SEEK HELP?



A PEDIATRICIAN or DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIAN can conduct an assessment and determine whether your child is meeting developmental milestones and make further recommendations.

CHILD FIND requires that all states have systems and procedures for identifying, locating, and evaluating all children birth-21 who may be entitled to special education services.

FAMILIES and TEACHERS can complete screeners and developmental checklists to monitor children's development. The results of these screeners and checklists help guide whether a child's development is typical, requires continued monitoring, or should be evaluated further.

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WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING EVALUATION?



Evaluations may include interviews conducted with your family or childcare providers. Evaluators may ask questions about your child's development across domains (ex: physical, behavioral, language, etc.). They may also ask to conduct an observation of your child in their natural environment (where they spend their time when the evaluation is not taking place – this could be home, childcare, etc.), and may ask to directly assess your child through play and interactions with others. You should always be asked to consent to an evaluation before the process begins.

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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER EVALUATION?



The organization will follow up with you about your child's assessment results and eligibility for services. If eligible, you will receive information about next steps for available services. If your child is not found eligible, the organization may contact you periodically to follow up. You can also request a reevaluation if concerns persist over time, or if new concerns arise.

In our next infographic we will highlight the types of services your child may receive if they are found eligible.

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RESOURCES



Child Find

Head Start Developmental Screening

CDC Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Developmental Monitoring Checklists

Developmental Milestone Tracker App

Example Developmental Screener

Ages and Stages Questionnaire

