Regular Developmental Screening for Children who are At-Risk for Developmental Concerns

Policy

The Philadelphia County Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program will conduct Regular Developmental Screening for children who meet the At-Risk criteria and

1) are not eligible for Early Intervention Services or
2) are eligible for Early Intervention Services but family declines Early Intervention Services and chooses At-Risk tracking.

Parents will be informed that their child is eligible for Regular Developmental Screening until the child reaches the age of three. The County will establish and ensure that Regular Developmental Screening will occur for children who meet the At-Risk criteria and this will be accomplished through its Service Coordination Entity(s). Children who meet the At-Risk criteria have one or more of the following:

- Born to a chemically dependent mother
- Elevated blood lead level of 10 or more micrograms per deciliter
- Experienced substantiated abuse or neglect
- Experiencing homelessness
- Low Birth Weight (Born under 1500 grams)
- Neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) stay

Procedures

1. Children who meet the At-Risk criteria can be referred for Regular Developmental Screening, with parent/guardian consent:
   - After a multi-disciplinary evaluation (MDE), if the MDE team agrees that the child does not have a developmental delay
   - When a child who had previously been eligible for Early Intervention services becomes age appropriate in all areas of development, the family may request on-going Regular Developmental Screening
   - When a child is eligible for Early Intervention services but the family does not want the services at that time
2. After the child is referred for Regular Developmental Screening, an At-Risk Service Coordinator will be assigned to work with the family.
3. As part of Regular Developmental Screening, the At Risk Service Coordinator will provide the family with prior written notice before conducting a screening, using the Parent’s Rights Agreement (PRA).
4. The At-Risk service coordinator will conduct (at least) quarterly developmental screening the family unless the family requests a different schedule of tracking, and it is documented.

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5. Quarterly Contacts can be in the form of a telephone meeting, written correspondence with telephone contact follow up and/or face-to face meetings.

6. Using written correspondence to track and monitor children means that families may be mailed an ASQ to administer and the At-Risk SC will telephone the family to assist with scoring and to review the findings.

7. At-Risk service coordinator will meet with the family to discuss at-risk tracking and monitoring and reviews the Parent agreement to participate in at-risk tracking and monitoring. A parent signature should be obtained

8. At-Risk service coordinator will complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire with the family routinely (every 2 months for children fewer than 24 months and every three months for children ages 24 through 36 months).

9. At-Risk service coordinator will complete the Good Faith Effort process as needed when a break in regular contact with the family occurs.

10. At-Risk Service Coordinator will give families information and will help families connect with other community resources that they may request help with or need. This may include referrals to early learning settings such as head start, pre-school and other child care programs.

11. The At-Risk Service Coordinator will maintain documentation of the frequency and details of all contacts and attempted contacts with families.

12. At-Risk Service Coordinator will refer any child for a full MDE or re-evaluation when it appears that the child has developmental concerns based on the assessment.

13. When it can be confirmed that Children who are enrolled in other service systems [like the Philadelphia Department of Human Services] are completing Developmental Screening through that system on a regular basis [quarterly at minimum], Early Intervention may not need to also provide Regular Developmental Screening for those At-Risk children.

14. The At-Risk Service Coordinator is responsible for data entry into the PELICAN system.