

9

STEPS

to plan a screening/ monitoring program



The planning phase contains important steps towards establishing a successful screening/monitoring program. Unless careful thought is given to each step of the planning phase, serious difficulties may arise later when the system is in operation.

1 COMMUNICATE WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS



- Meet with agency representatives and stakeholders, including physicians and parent representatives prior to implementing a screening/monitoring program.
- Make agreements to determine which agencies will screen children and how information will be shared between service providers.

2 INCLUDE PARENTAL PERSPECTIVES



- Parents can provide information and insights about screening that may not be available to service providers.
- Speak with families of diverse backgrounds to ensure services are provided in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner.

3 INVOLVE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



- Health care providers have valuable information about their patients, and young children in general, that can improve screening and monitoring outcomes.
- Be aware of any medically sponsored/operated screening activities. Support these efforts; don't try to replace them.

4 DETERMINE TARGET POPULATION



- Consider targeting certain geographical regions that are underserved, specific minority groups that may be high risk, or an age range that may maximize screening efforts (e.g., 36 months).
- Programs with limited resources may target children with multiple risk factors, as they are more likely to experience developmental delays.

5 FINALIZE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



- Developing appropriate goals and objectives should help ensure that the program is initiated efficiently and day-to-day operations are effective.
- The more productive time is spent on this step, the greater the likelihood the program will operate satisfactorily for all involved.

6 DETERMINE PROGRAM RESOURCES



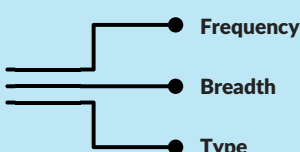
- Limited resources may require changes in program goals and objectives, as well as the means by which a goal is accomplished.
- All screening programs require resources to operate and support families when concerns arise.

7 DETERMINE ADMINISTRATION METHODS AND SETTINGS



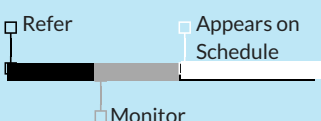
- The type of program, available resources, characteristics of parents, and program goals can impact the distribution method and settings chosen.
- Programs can distribute questionnaires by: mail-out, online, telephone interview, or home visit.
- Completion settings include: screening clinics, education and child care settings, and primary health care offices.

8 DETERMINE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF PROGRAM



- Three recommended practices that should be considered are frequency of screening, breadth of screening, and type of screening measure.
- It's ideal to use a standardized developmental screening tool to screen children on the major areas of development at regular intervals from 2 to 66 months.

9 SELECT REFERRAL CRITERIA



- Examining children's performances on the ASQ-3™ offers a straightforward way to determine those children who should be referred, those who should be monitored carefully, and those whose development appears to be proceeding without problem.