



Developmental Screening Results: Follow-Up with Families

*Kimberly Allen
Danielle Jennings*

*Presented at
2013 Partnering
for Success Meeting
Orlando, Florida*



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Developmental Screening

What is Developmental Screening?

Screening is a process to check children's development across all developmental domains.

- Language
- Cognitive
- Motor
- Sensory
- Social-Emotional

When developmental screening is done as part of childcare services, it allows professionals and parents to monitor and support targeted skill growth over time through the infant, toddler and preschool years.



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Developmental Screening

What is Developmental Screening?

Screening ensures every child is ready to learn.



Screening provides a yearly opportunity to review a child's strengths and challenges.

If screening results fall in the "concern" areas, children have follow-up services which may include referrals for diagnostic assessment.



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Phases in Screening Process

Administer and Score Questionnaire

Identify Follow-Up Based on Cutoff Scores

Determine Type of Follow-Up Needed

Discuss Results and Referral with Family

Refer Child to Appropriate Agency

Assist Family in Contacting Referral Agency



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Developmental Screening Results

Administer and Score Screening Questionnaire – Recommended Schedule

- Birth to 24 months, screening every 4–6 months is adequate.
- 2–3 years, every 6 months is adequate unless a delay is suspected.
- 4–5 years, once or twice yearly is usually adequate unless concerns are present.
- Children of any age whose scores are near the cut-off points should be rescreened in 2–3 months.



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Developmental Screening Results

Determine Type of Follow-Up Needed

No Areas of Concern

- Scores above cut-off points
- Parent and provider expectations for child match
- Provide parent with handouts and activities to encourage overall skill growth
- Rescreen at appropriate schedule

Gray Areas of Concern

- Scores are in the monitoring zone near cut-off points
- Parents and providers implement specific developmental activities related to areas of concern
- Refer to health care provider or other community resources
- Rescreen 3 months

1-2 Black Areas of Concern

- Scores are at or below cut-off point 1-2 areas
- Screen for social-emotional development
- Provide parent with information to determine if they want EI/ECSE referral at this time or wait to re-screen
- Parents and providers implement specific developmental activities related to areas of concern
- Rescreen 1 month

3 or more Black Areas of Concern

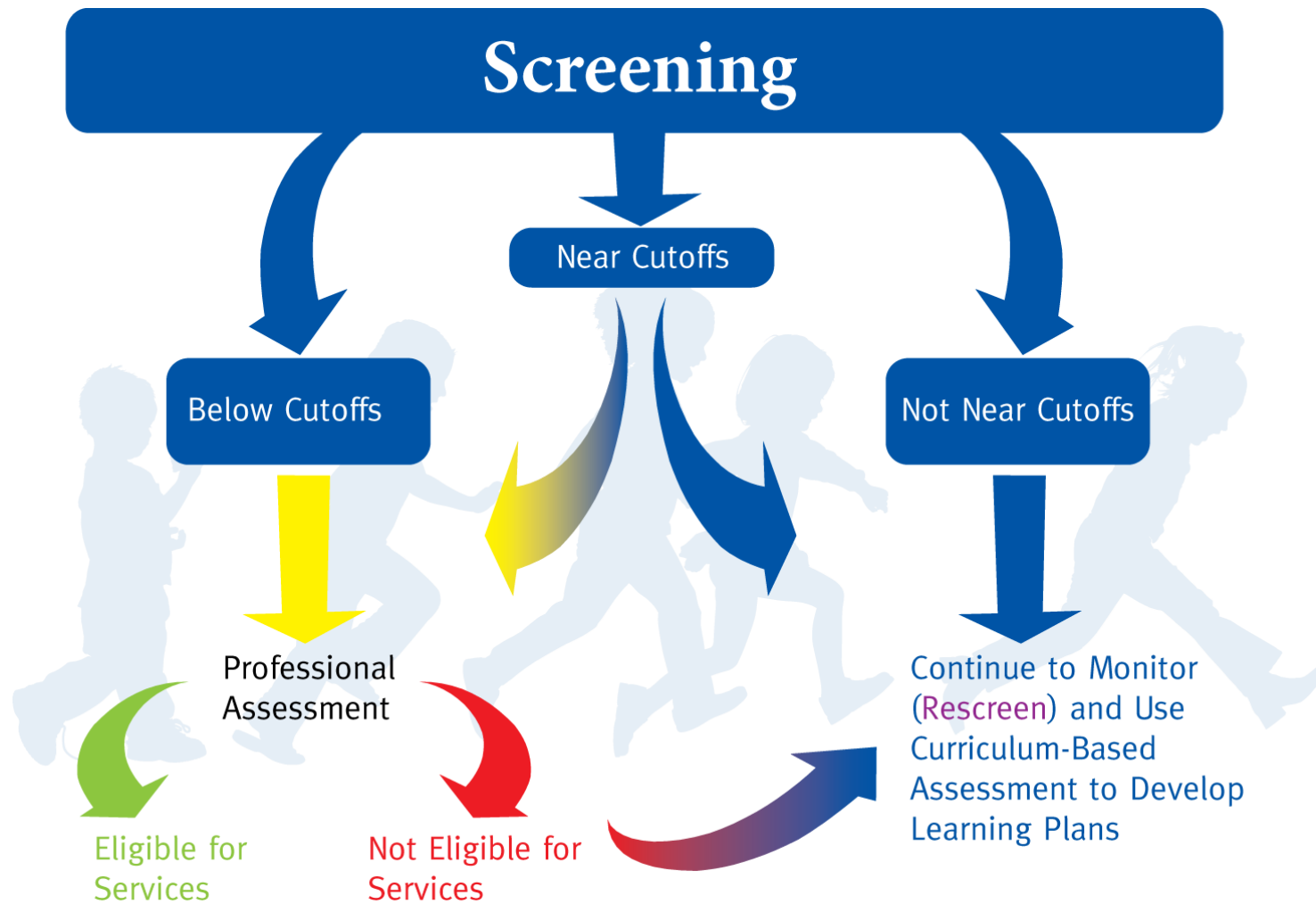
- Scores are at or below cut-off points in 3 or more domains
- Screen for social-emotional development
- Provide parent with information about areas of concern and recommend referral to EI/ECSE for evaluation
- Consult with parents to determine if they want to make contact with referral source or prefer provider to make referral for further assessment



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Developmental Screening Results



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Developmental Screening Results

Discuss Results with Family

- Share results in person, by phone or in writing (paper or email) in a family-friendly tone.
- Highlight child strengths first and then any areas of concern.
- Provide parents with ideas for games and activities to support their child's needs and interests.
- Tell them when another screen will be administered.
- Review the purpose of screening.
- Expect questions even with typical results.
- Make them feel they are part of a team.



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Developmental Screening Results

Referring Child for Further Evaluation

Find private setting to talk with parents confidentially

Ask family about their concerns about their child

Review results using terms related to cutoff scores

Discuss influencing factors such as health, language, or environment

Explain screening does not assess or diagnose their child

Provide specific, non-judgmental examples of concerns noted

Emphasize parents' skills and resources to work with their child

Provide information about referral services and options

Determine if parents will contact referral or they prefer you make referral



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Developmental Screening Results

In Summary...

- Sharing children’s screening results with families is an opportunity to highlight their child’s strengths and special qualities.
- Discussing developmental screening results with parents can help bridge trust and communication with providers.
- Always consider outside factors in the child’s life (health, language or environmental issues) when areas of concern are noted and re-screen within 2-3 months to check results found earlier.



Office of Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.