

Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines

The Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines (LDSG) expand screening beyond general development, autism, and caregiver well-being to include social-emotional development and social determinants of health. These voluntary guidelines promote national best practices and support providers with resources to build comprehensive screening services at the practice level.

Why Developmental Screening?

- Approximately 15% (1 in 6) of U.S. children have a developmental disability ¹
- Only 2-3% of U.S. children receive public early intervention services by age 3 ²
- Quality early intervention services can change a child's developmental trajectory and improve life-long outcomes for children, families, and communities ^{3 4}

Developmental Screening Operational Definition

All children in Louisiana should receive periodic, developmentally appropriate, comprehensive screenings as part of a well-child visit or other preventive visit and in response to parent concern or triggering events such as hospitalization, trauma, or sudden onset of new symptoms. Comprehensive screenings include screening for physical health, oral health, mental health, developmental and psychosocial needs, with consideration of family culture and language.

Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines Periodicity

Age in months	1	2	4	6	9	12	15	18	24	30	36	48	60
General Development*					X			X		X			
Autism*								X	X				
Caregiver Well-being*	X	X	X	X									
Social Emotional#								X		X	X	X	X
Social Determinants of Health#	X			X		X					X		X

*Follows AAP recommended screening periodicity

#Recommended by AAP without specified periodicity

Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines Recommended Instruments

Domain	Recommended Instruments
General Development	Ages and Stages Questionnaire – 3 (ASQ-3*)
Autism	Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)
Caregiver Well-being	Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2; embedded in SEEK & ECSA)
Social Emotional	Early Childhood Screening Assessment (ECSA) Brief Early Childhood Screening Assessment (Brief ECSA) Preschool Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PPSC) Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional (ASQ:SE-2*)
Social Determinants of Health	Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK*)

*ASQ-3, ASQ:SE-2, and SEEK each have an associated one-time nominal fee. The remainder of the recommended tools are public domain and available for free download.

1. Boyle CA, Boulet S, Schieve L, Cohen RA, Blumberg SJ, Yeargin-Allsopp M, Visser S, Kogan MD. Trends in the Prevalence of Developmental Disabilities in US Children, 1997–2008. *Pediatrics*. 2011;127(6):1034-42.
 2. Data Accountability Center. (2010). Part C child count: 2009. <https://www.ideadata.org>
 3. Hebbeler, K., Spiker, D., Bailey, D., Scarborough, A., Mallik, S., Simeonsson, R., & Singer, M. (2007). Early intervention for infants & toddlers with disabilities and their families: participants, services, and outcomes. Final report of the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study (NEILS).
 4. Ramey, Craig T., and Frances A. Campbell, "Preventive Education for High-Risk Children: Cognitive Consequences of the Carolina Abecedarian Project," *American Journal of Mental Deficiency*, Vol. 88, No. 5, 1984, pp. 515-523.

Louisiana Young Child Wellness Collaborative (YCWC)

In 2015 the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Public Health (OPH) and Office of Behavioral Health convened an action learning collaborative focused on building a shared agenda across systems to support the health, development, and wellness of young children. The YCWC brought together various public health and community agencies to work toward improving systems of care for children in Louisiana. This cross-sector state team continues its work to advance cross system maternal and child health (MCH) priorities.

Under the auspices of the Louisiana YCWC, a developmental screening workgroup was tasked with providing guidance around comprehensive developmental screening for Louisiana. The workgroup selected and endorsed a limited group of screening instruments, across key developmental domains, to be promoted in primary care and other settings. The Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines (LDSG) expand screening beyond developmental milestone, autism, and maternal depression screening as recommended by the 2006 and 2010 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policies, and follows the 2014 Standards for Systems of Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN), the 2012 AAP Policy Statement on childhood adversity and toxic stress, and the 2015 AAP Clinical Report addressing screening for social and emotional risk.

The Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines are designed to support pediatric and family medicine providers with the tools to implement and build robust developmental screening services at the practice level. Free trainings, materials, and technical assistance are available for Louisiana providers serving children 0-5 years.

Young Child Wellness Collaborative (YCWC) Developmental Screening Workgroup

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Council on Children With Disabilities, Section on Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Bright Futures Steering Committee, Medical Home Initiatives for Children With Special Needs Project Advisory Committee. Policy Statement. Identifying infants and young children with developmental disorders in the medical home: An algorithm for developmental surveillance and screening [corrected] [published erratum appears in PEDIATRICS 2006 oct;118(4):1808-9]. *Pediatrics*. 2006;118(1):405-420.

Garner A, Shonkoff J, Siegel B, et al. Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health, Committee on Early Childhood, Adoption, and Dependent Care, and Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Policy Statement. Early childhood adversity, toxic stress, and the role of the pediatrician: Translating developmental science into lifelong health. *Pediatrics*. 2012;129(1):e224-e225-e231.

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Weitzman C, Wegner L, the Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health, Council on Early Childhood, and Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Clinical Report. Promoting optimal development: Screening for behavioral and emotional problems. *Pediatrics*. 2015;135(2):381-215.

VanLandeghem K, Sloyer P, Gabor V, et al. Standards for systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs. March 2014. Association of Maternal and Child Health Association and the Lucile Packard Foundation.

Contact the Bureau of Family Health's Developmental Screening Coordinator for information/technical assistance at 504-568-5055.

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