



Vermont's Universal Developmental Screening System

Rev 11.2016

Universal Developmental Screening Results Now Available on the Vermont Immunization Registry!

In an effort to improve developmental screening rates and identify young children with developmental concerns as early as possible, the Vermont Immunization Registry has been expanded to include Universal developmental Screening (UDS) results as a means of sharing screening data across community settings. You may now use the Registry to view UDS results, generate screening reports for children in your practice and more.

What are Developmental Surveillance and Screening?

Both developmental surveillance and developmental screening should be done for all young children. Developmental surveillance is an ongoing, longitudinal, cumulative process of recognizing children who may be at risk for developmental delay. Developmental screening is the use of brief and objective standardized tools to identify children at risk for developmental delay and the need for referral for evaluation. It is a formal process that occurs at defined intervals according to national standards, at points of entry into services and any time a child is identified to be at risk through surveillance. Screening may occur at a primary care practice, a mental health agency, a Head Start program or in other early care and education settings. Interpretation of screening and recommendations for further evaluation and referral should include consideration of other child and family contextual factors.

Using a high quality developmental screening tool like the [Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Third Edition \(ASQ-3™\)](#), professionals conduct screenings to identify children who are at risk for developmental delay or other behavioral disorders in an accurate and cost-effective manner.

How Do Screening Tools Work?

Screening tools usually take the form of a series of questions or checklists used to track children's development relative to milestones achieved by a larger group of children of the same age. A home-grown checklist won't do; developmental screening tools must be carefully validated by research. The ASQ-3 prompts parents or other caregivers to answer a series of simple questions, regarding their child's abilities (e.g., *Does your child climb on an object such as a chair to reach something he wants? When your child wants something, does she tell you by pointing to it?*). Children whose development appears to fall significantly below that of their peers are flagged for further attention.

If you provide developmental screening for the children in your practice and would like access to screening data in order to view a child's screening history, generate screening activity reports and more, please contact us to schedule a training.



Who Does the Screening?

Anyone who works with infants and young children can play a key role in the early identification of developmental delays:

- Early intervention professionals
- Early educators and other early childhood professionals
- Pediatricians and nurses
- Public health providers
- Home visitors
- Family support workers



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