

May 2020



U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



Monthly Update: WIC Developmental Monitoring Project



You are receiving this monthly newsletter because you are a part of the ASPHN WIC Developmental Monitoring Project. This newsletter will feature updates from states within the project about what they are doing and successes and challenges they have had, information about upcoming trainings, and other news. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, you can reach out to Amber Brown at AmberBrown@asphn.org. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- **May 18th @ Noon EST: State Updates and Networking Call**
- **June 15th @ Noon EST - How to Develop Productive Partnerships; Act Early Ambassadors**
- **July 20th @ Noon EST: State Updates and Networking Call; Statewide Implementation Updates**

ASPHN and CDC Updates



Simple Ways to Promote Developmental Monitoring During the COVID-19 Outbreak

Developmental monitoring is an incredibly valuable service that WIC clinics can offer families. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many clinics are offering appointments virtually or over the phone and we realize it may not be practical to fill out the Milestone Checklists with each family over the phone or virtually. We would like to offer a few tips to help ensure that families are not missing out on vital services and early interventions related to potential developmental delays. These tips include:

1. Promote [CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker App](#) and encourage participants to fill it

- out or their own. Also, encourage them to speak with their child's doctor if there are any missing milestones. Some states are having participants come in to pick up checks or load benefits on their cards. You could hand them a [Milestone Tracker App flyer](#) while they are there.
2. If your state uses the WIC Shopper App you can add a link to [CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker App](#). They have done this in Missouri, and it is a simple process. A simple request needs to be submitted to JPMA to include this on your states app.
 3. As part of your phone appointment ask the parent if they have any concerns with their child's development and refer them to their child's doctor if they have any.
 4. If your state has the capability you could consider sending an email or text to WIC participants with information about developmental milestones.
 5. Share resources about developmental milestones on your states WIC Facebook page. These can include:
 - a. Information and a link to download [CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker App](#);
 - b. General information on Developmental Milestones;
 - c. Information on how to order [CDC's free children's books](#);
 - d. Post a video of staff reading one of CDC's children's books.

Promote Developmental Monitoring Using Social Media

A great way to promote developmental monitoring is by using your state WIC's social media accounts if you have one. Here are a few sample posts you could use to promote the Milestone Tracker App, CDC's Children's Books, and Developmental Monitoring. Share these on your social media platform if you're able.

1. Did you know April is Autism Awareness Month? Early Intervention for Autism is crucial for a child's success. Talk to your WIC provider or download CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker App to monitor your child's development. www.cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker
2. Looking for a fun way to include your child in developmental milestones? Order your FREE children's book from CDC here or talk to your WIC provider. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/amazingme.html>
3. What developmental milestones has your baby/child reached? If you aren't sure, check out CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker App or talk to your WIC provider to find out! #ActEarly <http://www.cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker>

Refresher Course Coming Soon...

ASPHN is developing a short Power Point presentation that can be used as a refresher course for your staff. Many of our states had already trained their staff before the COVID-19 delays and this will be a good way to remind and refresh staff on the WIC Developmental Monitoring Project before you implement. This will best be used in conjunction with CDC's Training and Recruitment Videos.

ASPHN COVID-19 Resources

ASPHN has added links to some COVID-19 related resources to their webpage as well as adding them and more to a google sheets document. These resources may be valuable to you. It is being continually updated. For any official information please make sure to visit CDC.gov. Click the links below to access:

<https://asphn.org/covid-19-resources/>

[COVID 19 Links Related to Food Systems, Public Health Nutrition and General Information](#)

Cancelled - National WIC Association Networking Event

The National WIC Association has decided that in-lieu of an in-person event, they will host a virtual conference in June. Because of this ASPHN will no longer hold an in-person networking event.

Sensory Tool Kits (Boston Medical Center Autism Program)

Julie Schaeffer (Massachusetts) has shared a resource from Boston Medical Center (BMC) that may be of interest to you in your states. BMC has an autism program that provides sensory tool kits to clinics as a way to make families more comfortable and welcomed. This could be a great idea to consider in your WIC clinics. It may be feasible to put together a more simplified version than what they are using. More information about these tool kits can be found on their [webpage](#).

State Updates:

Iowa

Iowa finished it's 6 month pilot a few weeks early due to COVID-19 and the closure of our pilots clinics but during the pilot 3,828 checklists were used in our sites. Iowa hopes to do another shorter pilot once our clinics reopen with laminated checklists to see if it is a more sustainable model if we go statewide.

Massachusetts State Update

No new updates.

Massachusetts has begun using the Baby's Busy Day board boards as an incentive for staff. The site with the greatest increase in percent of eligible participants to receive a checklist will be given a small supply to share with families.

Nevada

No new updates.

Nevada's statewide implementation start date has been pushed back due to delays in receive materials from the printer and delays related to COVID-19.

Arkansas State Update

No new updates.

Arkansas WIC finished up LTSAE staff trainings across the state in February. Checklists and file folders were received for each CPA in the state. WIC State Office staff took part in an observation time study to look at increasing the time during the WIC certification appointments with the addition of LTSAE. The LTSAE Statewide Plan was submitted on February 14th to ASPHN. Arkansas WIC is working with the Arkansas Act Early Ambassador to create a lesson to coincide with the Age 1

developmental milestone children's book created by the CDC.

The 2019 project "Replication of the Learn the Signs. Act Early. WIC Model" is made possible by Cooperative Agreement Number NU38OT000279 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The contents of this document are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC. This project is 100% supported with Federal money and the total award is \$250,000.
