

May 2024



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



Monthly Update: WIC Developmental Monitoring Project



<https://asphn.org/learn-the-signs-act-early/>

Upcoming Events

- **May 22nd, 11 am ET:** *Benefits of Early Intervention and What Happens After the Referral (see more details below)*
- **June 26th, 11 am ET:** *CDC Resources for WIC*
- **July 24th, 11 am ET:** *Update from Intensive States*

Register in advance:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlce6vpjwoG9RyWi9A3BmuVF3FJj5jsvXy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Monthly trainings take place on the 4th Wednesday at 11 am ET.*

Sharing Updates/Resources

Would your state like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter? Please send an update on what your state is working on regarding developmental monitoring by the 20th of the month to be featured in the following month's newsletter.

Send to

amberbrown@asphn.org

Thanks!

ASPHN and CDC Updates

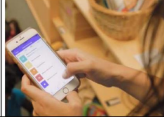


Highlighting a Resource

Sample Social Media Posts for Promoting Developmental Monitoring

Looking for a simple way to promote developmental monitoring? There is a whole list of sample social media posts and images for promoting developmental monitoring with WIC participants. Simply copy and paste these posts or tailor them for your state.

These can be accessed on [ASPHN's WIC DM Project webpage](#) under "Implementation Resources for the DM Program in WIC".

Sample Social Media Posts for Promoting Developmental Monitoring in WIC	
Message Text	Visual Media (Photo, Graphic, or GIF)
WIC providers play an important role in helping to connect families to services and support when there's a developmental concern. Learn more here: https://www.cdc.gov/nbidd/actearly/wic-providers.html	
Get outside and help your child stay active by going on a walk or kicking a ball around! #DidYouKnow that most children can run by 2 years old? Learn the milestones to look for by visiting https://cdc.gov/Milestones ! #LearnTheSigns #ActEarly	
#DidYouKnow that most babies begin to smile by 2 months? Use the milestone checklist to learn about your baby's development from 2 months to 5 years old by visiting https://cdc.gov/Milestones .	
Parents: Did you know resources like CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker app can prepare you for talks with the doctor about your child's development? Download the app and get started today! https://bit.ly/2N72156 #MilestoneMonitor	
Is your baby due for a well-child appointment? Before the visit, download CDC's Milestone Tracker app to complete a milestone checklist! The app can help you talk with your WIC provider about the milestones your baby's development. Learn more here: https://cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker	

Sample Social Media Posts



National WIC Association Conference Presentation and Exhibit

CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early. (LTSAE) program was well represented at the National WIC Association Conference in April. CDC's Molly Dunham-Friel ran the LTSAE exhibit, where she promoted integrating developmental monitoring in WIC and had many meaningful conversations.

On the last day of the conference, Amber Brown (ASPHN) and Kristie Fawkes (NJ Ocean County WIC) presented to approximately 100 people. Amber shared some background on developmental monitoring in the WIC program, a little bit about Maine WIC's implementation, and how to get more information. Kristie did a fantastic job sharing about developmental monitoring in NJ WIC, especially focusing on Ocean County.

Attendees were excited to learn about the free resources LTSAE offers to support their efforts to promote and integrate developmental monitoring into the WIC visit. They were especially interested in the WICShopper App and online modules. The 2024 NWA conference was a great success and

provided valuable insights that will inform the trainings and resources created for this coming year.

Please enjoy the pictures from the conference. It was so great to meet so many people from this group in person!

Slides from the Presentation



Amber Brown and Kristie Fawkes presenting about developmental monitoring in WIC.



Molly Dunham-Friel (CDC) and Amber Brown at the LTSAE Exhibit



Amber Brown and Kristie Fawkes presenting about developmental monitoring in WIC.

Sharing Successes

Arkansas WIC

Arkansas WIC's interest in developmental monitoring has been on-going for several years since the successful LTSAE pilot at three clinics in 2019.



In 2021, AR WIC participated as a Technical Assistance state by working with ASPHN to adapt the "Milestones Matter" online module for Arkansas WIC. The module was added to Arkansas's online nutrition education platform for WIC participants. The modules are available in English and Spanish and are both narrated.

Arkansas WIC is currently piloting the "WIC Developmental Monitoring Program" at two clinics. A laminated milestone checklist and dry-erase marker are offered to parents and caregivers of infants and children during their mid-certification health check appointment. If there are findings, staff copy the results onto a paper copy to give to the parent. Referrals are made to the child's PCP and Arkansas First Connections, a program that provides support services to families of children with developmental delays or disabilities. The use of laminated checklists is a helpful cost-containment solution.

All caregivers at mid-certification appointments are given CDC milestone

tracker app flyers to encourage them to continue monitoring their children at home.

Arkansas WIC values the mission of Learn the Signs. Act Early. and would like to expand the developmental monitoring program statewide. Participation in the pilot project will allow the program to create a sustainable model for statewide implementation.

New Jersey WIC Featured in the Act Early Network News

Congratulations to New Jersey WIC's Rutgers NJMS-WIC Program for being featured in the spring edition of the Act Early Network News. You can read the article below or access the full newsletter:



NEW JERSEY: LTSAE at Rutgers NJMS-WIC Newark

A message from Jose Espinosa, the Chief/Lead Nutritionist at the Rutgers-NJMS WIC Program.

In March 2024, the Rutgers NJMS WIC site began implementing the Developmental Milestone Checklist Program for WIC. Clerical and nutrition team members are working together to ensure every family completes a milestone checklist during any of their WIC visits, more specifically at any initial or renewal appointments. Although it has only been a few weeks, a significant number of participants have been referred for early intervention services. During monthly meetings, state office staff will be able to quantify the number of participants that have been referred. Monitoring of this project is ongoing in order to make any necessary modifications to ensure optimization of the goals of this important initiative and collaboration.

[Act Early Network News April 2024](#)

Join us for the May Online Training

Title: *Benefits of Early Intervention and What Happens After the Referral*

Date: May 22nd, 11 am ET

Presenters:

- **Deepa Srinivasavaradan, IMH-E[®]**; NJ Act Early Ambassador, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
- **Susan Evans**; Part C Coordinator, New Jersey Early Intervention System, New Jersey Department of Health
- **Paulina Vargas**; Parent; Bilingual Family Resource Specialist, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

Description:

Please invite WIC clinic staff or anyone you think would benefit from this training. Join us to learn more about Early Intervention and the impacts it has for the families of kids who are referred.

1. Learn why Early Intervention (EI) is so important and what the benefits of EI are.
2. Find out what happens after a referral is given and what the process is once someone is referred to EI.
3. Hear experiences from families who have gone through the process of EI.

[Register Here](#)

Networking Questions!

During the Year 5 Extension, we will be doing more networking calls. Please send me any questions or topics that you are interested in talking with other states about. Please email amberbrown@asphn.org with your suggestions!

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!
<https://asphn.org/learn-the-signs-act-early/>

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