

July 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

- **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!

Join us for Our July Online Training

Date: July 24th, 11 am ET

Topic: Update from Year 5 Intensive States

Description: Join us to hear from the Year 5 Extension Intensive (Funded) States: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Jersey, and North Dakota. They will share what they have worked on over the last year, successes, lessons learned, and their plans for the future.

WIC Programs Presenting:

- *Arkansas WIC*
- *Louisiana WIC*
- *New Jersey WIC*
- *North Dakota WIC*

[Register Here](#)

ASPHN and CDC Updates



Highlighting a Resource

Journal Article: Developmental Monitoring in Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Increases Referrals to Social Supports

Huge congratulations to Kara Ghiringhelli and Kate Barlow for publishing an article in the *Infants & Young Children An Interdisciplinary Journal of Early Childhood Intervention* about Developmental Monitoring in WIC!

https://journals.lww.com/iycjournal/abstract/2024/07000/developmental_monitoring_in_special_supplemental.2.aspx

Title: Developmental Monitoring in Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Increases Referrals to Social Supports

Barlow, K., Ghiringhello, K., Sullivan, K., & Daly, A. (2024). Developmental monitoring in special supplemental nutrition programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) increases referrals to social supports. Infants and Young Children, 37(3), 157-171. DOI: 10.1097/IYC.0000000000000266

Abstract:

To examine the impact of developmental monitoring on child referrals, a retrospective data review, comparing seven pilot programs with seven matched controls in Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) was completed. Pilot programs were trained on developmental monitoring and how to refer families to their local Early Intervention (EI) program, Special Education, or Family TIES (Together in

Enhancing Support), services when there is a developmental concern. The “Learn the Signs. Act Early” developmental monitoring program was implemented, and the outcomes included the number of referrals made over a 6-month period. The results indicated a statistically significant difference ($p = <.001$) in referrals made preimplementation compared to postimplementation with a large effect size ($d = 0.96$) for pilot programs. Additionally, when analyzing between-groups there were significantly more referrals ($p = .001$) made at the pilot programs compared to the control programs, again with a large effect size ($d = 2.10$). This study shows that the implementation of developmental monitoring within WIC programs was effective in increasing referrals to intervention services designed to support families with early identification of developmental delay.



[Access the Article Here](#)

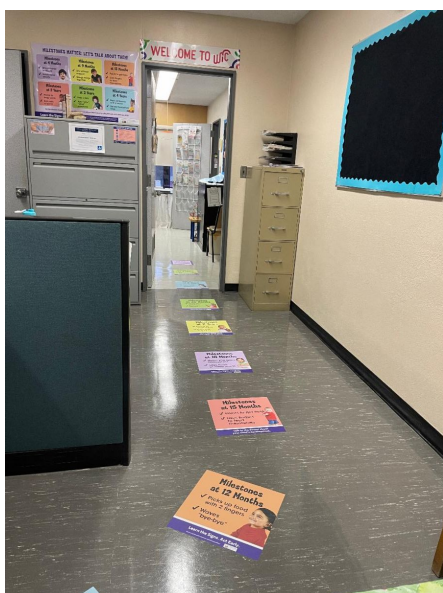
Sharing Successes

North Dakota WIC

North Dakota WIC became interested in the LTSAE project as it ties nicely with two of WIC's core goals of nutrition education and referrals to other health services, as developmental delays can affect nutritional status. In the past, a few of our local WIC agencies developed a goal to provide education/utilize the LTSAE materials for their annual nutrition services plan. We also saw interest from our WIC participants on the topic by accessing the CDC Milestones Matter content on our WIC Shopper app and completing the wichealth lessons in the Milestones Matter series. Last fiscal year, we participated as a Technical Assistance State by attending the monthly networking meetings/trainings and sharing information from those meetings with our local agency WIC directors at our quarterly directors' meetings. Because of our participation as a Technical Assistance state, two local agencies, Lake Region (monthly enrollment around 373) and City-County (monthly enrollment around 87) were interested in implementing the program in fiscal year 2024, so we applied and received funding as an Intensive State.



Prior to implementation at the two local agencies in February, planning meetings were held with state and local agency staff, and training was provided by ASPHN and our state's CDC's LTSAE Ambassador. From implementation through March 30th, 65 checklists were distributed (with 61 checklists being completed) at both agencies. During that same time period, 12 referrals were provided mostly for movement/physical development concerns. Referrals were provided to a participant's health care provider in addition to locally-specific early childhood/intervention services. Implementation is going very well, and checklists will continue to be provided at these two agencies until the end of the calendar year, when they will evaluate if they will continue the project in the future. We are also planning a training on developmental milestones for all local agency WIC staff in September with our state's LTSAE Ambassador. After that training, we hope other local agencies will be interested in implementing the program at their local agency during 2025.



Lake Region WIC Office



City County WIC Office

Upcoming CDC Webinar

Register and join CDC for an upcoming webinar focused on optimizing early detection of developmental delays and implementation of services! We encourage you to share with partners as well.

[Register Here](#)

Screening AND Family Engaged Developmental Monitoring: Optimizing Early Detection of Developmental Delays and Implementation of Services



**Sherri L. Alderman, MD, MPH,
MH-E Clinical & Policy, FAAP**

Board-certified Developmental
Behavioral Pediatrician,
faculty at Portland State University,
CDC's Act Early Ambassador to Oregon,
and Help Me Grow Physician Champion

**At the conclusion of this
session, attendees will be
able to:**

- Distinguish the different yet complementary functions between developmental screening and family engaged developmental monitoring that promote early detection of developmental delays
- Name one strength and one limitation to eliciting parent/caregiver concerns
- Describe how family engaged developmental monitoring using CDC's *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* resources promotes parent/caregiver engagement

Monday, August 5

11:00–12:00pm PDT / 2:00–3:00pm EDT

Registration: bit.ly/actearlywebinar Passcode: =4tNPQT0



Did You Miss Our June Online Training? Check Out the Recording Below

Topic: *Developmental Monitoring in WIC Made Simple with CDC's FREE
Learn the Signs. Act Early. Resources*

Description:

Please share the recording of this webinar with your WIC clinic staff.

Come learn about FREE developmental monitoring resources from CDC's *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* Program and how to use them with WIC families.

Materials will help engage parents in monitoring their child's developmental progress, empower them to support their child's development and help them take action when concerns are noted.

Presented By:

Molly Dunham-Friel; Health Communication Specialist, CDC's *"Learn the*

[View the Recording and Slides](#)

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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