

June 2025



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

- June 25th: Building Strong Connections: Early Intervention Programs and Referral Best Practices
- July 23rd: Topic TBD

[Register here](#)

**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 June Online Training

Date: June 25th, 11 am ET

Topic: Building Strong Connections: Early Intervention Programs and Referral Best

Description:

Join us for an informative webinar focused on how WIC staff can effectively connect with and collaborate alongside Early Intervention (EI) programs in their state. This session will provide practical guidance on navigating the EI referral process, ensuring referrals are made accurately, and sharing tips to encourage families to follow up on those referrals.

Key topics will include:

- How to identify and connect with your local or state EI programs
- Best practices for building collaborative relationships with EI providers
- Guidance about the referral process
- Strategies for motivating and supporting families to follow through on referrals

This webinar will offer valuable tools and insights to improve developmental outcomes for the families you serve.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ASPHN and CDC Updates



Highlighting a Resource

Getting the Conversation Started Resource

This month, we're shining a spotlight on an important resource from CDC that will help you get the conversation of developmental monitoring started during WIC appointments. The [*What to Say When: Getting the Conversation Started*](#) resource was designed specifically to support professionals like WIC staff by offering clear, practical talking points for engaging families in conversations about their child's development.

Whether appointments are in person or virtual, the guide provides flexible language for introducing developmental milestone checklists, reviewing results, and knowing when and how to recommend follow-up. It includes supportive phrasing for both routine developmental discussions as well as how to respond when concerns may arise.

By making it easier to talk about milestones, this resource helps build families' confidence in tracking their child's development and encourages early action when needed. It's a great tool to revisit and share with your team as we continue to support children's healthy growth and development.

You can access the resource at www.cdc.gov/ActEarly or by clicking below.

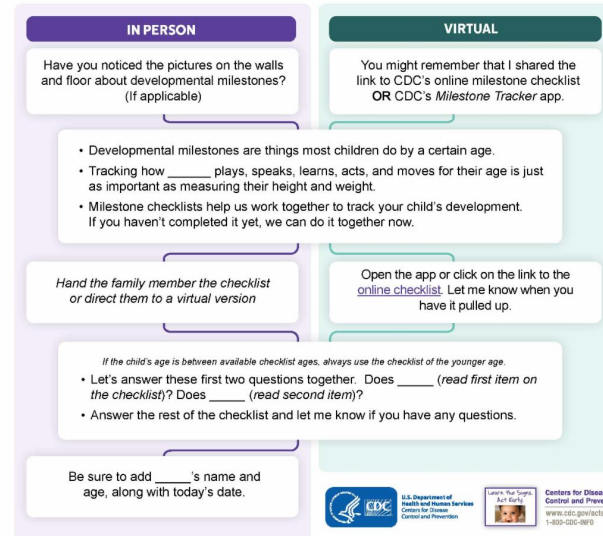
Developmental Monitoring: Getting the Conversation Started



WHAT TO SAY WHEN...

Introducing the milestone checklist

The following talking points make up just one example of how you can introduce the milestone checklist. For your convenience, there are separate talking points for in person or virtual discussion, as well as talking points that are common to both. Modify them as needed to best fit the situation.



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What to Say When - English

What to Say When - Spanish

Help Us Develop New Developmental Monitoring Resources for WIC!

Thanks to your feedback during our February online training, we're creating new tools to support developmental monitoring in WIC clinics, and we'd love your help!

We're looking for volunteers to assist with creating and reviewing these resources. The time commitment will be small, and your input will make a big difference. We especially welcome WIC clinic staff to join the review process, since you're the ones on the ground, interacting with participants every day and bringing essential insight to this work.

If you're interested, please reach out to Amber Brown at amberbrown@asphn.org.

Planned resources include:

- A nutrition-focused resource for WIC staff, connecting nutrition and child development
- A pregnancy handout to start the developmental monitoring conversation early
- A summary of how other clinics are offering developmental monitoring

- A guide on cultural considerations when offering checklists
- An interactive toolkit for WIC clinics to get started with developmental monitoring (developing next grant year October 2025-September 2026)

Let us know if you'd like to be part of the process!

Feeding Matters Resource

Feeding Matters is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the system of care for pediatric feeding disorder (PFD) and Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID). We are committed to improving early identification, accurate diagnosis, and effective treatment of PFD and ARFID by working in partnership with families, healthcare professionals, and community organizations. Pediatric feeding disorder is a complex condition that affects a child's ability to eat safely and thrive. It impacts more than just nutrition, it affects social, emotional, developmental, and medical well-being. Feeding Matters brings awareness to this often-misunderstood issue and provides education, resources, and support for those navigating it.

WIC staff are often among the first professionals to identify feeding concerns in infants and young children. It is crucial to recognize that difficulties with feeding may go beyond typical picky eating or growth concerns. PFD can present as refusal to eat, prolonged mealtimes, choking or gagging, poor weight gain, or reliance on modified textures. Feeding Matters offers free resources, including An [Infant and Child Feeding Questionnaire](#) to help families and providers determine if further evaluation is needed. We also provide family support programs and professional education opportunities. Connecting families with appropriate care early can make a significant difference in outcomes. By partnering together, Feeding Matters and WIC can help ensure that children with feeding challenges receive the timely support they need to grow and thrive.

Networking Questions!

Throughout the year, we will hold periodic networking calls. Please send me any questions or topics you are interested in discussing with other states. 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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