Learn the Signs. Act Early. Digital Toolkit
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www.cdc.gov/ActEarly
Course Objectives

Following this session, the participant will be able to:

• Understand the purpose of the CDC’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” (LTSAE) free developmental monitoring tools

• Locate the CDC’s LTSAE webpage that includes helpful resources.

• Understand the options offered in the LTSAE digital toolkit.

• Identify action steps to promote parent engaged developmental monitoring
• About 1 in 6 children aged 3-17 has a developmental disability (Boyle et al, 2011).
• Up to 13% of children aged birth to 3 years old have developmental delays that would qualify them for Part C, based on common state eligibility criteria (Rosenberg, Zhang, & Robinson, 2008).
• Only 2-3% of children receive early Part C intervention services, and between 5-6% receive early childhood special education services through IDEA Part B, Section 619.
• Data related to Part C/Part B enrolment suggest that many children with developmental disabilities may not be identified in time to access early interventions. (Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, n.d.; Macy, Marks & Towle, 2014).
• Failure to identify children with developmental delays before their 3rd birthday reduces the likelihood that the child will receive the benefits of Early Intervention services.
To improve early identification of developmental delays and disabilities, including autism, by facilitating parent-engaged developmental monitoring and promoting developmental screening so children and their families can get the early services and support they need.

"Learn the Signs. Act Early." Mission

www.cdc.gov/ActEarly
Conduit to LTSAE Target Audiences

Through PARTNERSHIPS with PROGRAMS that serve them

ACT EARLY AMBASSADORS
The CDC and AAP have partnered to review the LTSAE materials and revise them.

Current materials are state-of-the-art until new materials are published.

Newly revised materials should be available in spring-summer of 2022.

Revisions include refinement of milestones (there are less milestones on checklists).

Revisions emphasize that developmental monitoring is not developmental screening.
The LTSAE Approach-Health Communication Intervention

- Friendly, positive (and cute!)
  - Focus on milestones, not warning signs
  - Celebrating development as important as acting on concerns
- Parent-focused
- High-quality
- Comprehensive
- Helpful, encouraging
- Open, customizable
- Can be used with parents of pre-term infant/s
Empowering Families

Parents sometimes report that their child’s doctor was not responsive to their concerns about the child’s development or suggested a “wait and see” approach that the family is feeling uneasy about.

We support parents in getting their concerns addressed with a few reminders:

– Acting early on concerns is the best way to help their child and they are doing the right thing.
– They know their child better than anyone.
– Families do not need a referral to contact EI services (under age 3) or their local public school (age 3 and over) to find out if their child might be eligible.
What are Developmental Milestones?

• Things most children can do by a certain age
  – How a child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves
• They offer important clues about a child’s developmental health

Points out a plane in the sky
• **Learn the Signs. Act Early. Digital Toolkit (cdc.gov)**
Milestone Tracker App

- CDC’s Milestone Tracker App | CDC
Information for Families

- Information for Families | CDC
Concerned about your child’s development

- Concerned About Your Child’s Development? | CDC
Developmental Monitoring and Screening

- Learn More About Your Child’s Development: Developmental Monitoring and Screening English & Spanish (cdc.gov)
Early Intervention

- What is “Early Intervention”? | CDC
Videos, buttons and Social Media

- Videos, Social Media, and Web Buttons | CDC
Poster – CDC and VROOM

- Vroom Poster 14x8.5 - English (cdc.gov)
Action Steps to Promote Developmental Monitoring

• What action steps can you take to promote developmental monitoring?
  – Visit and explore the CDC website/toolkit
  – Encourage Milestone Tracker App downloads
Thank you

Action Steps and Questions
References


