

## The Benefits of Developmental Monitoring and Screening for Young Children

### **WHAT: What is Child Development?**

Child Development refers to how a child grows which includes physical, social-emotional, cognitive, and language development.

### **What are Developmental Milestones?**

Skills like taking a first step, smiling at people, and waving goodbye and hello are called developmental milestones. How your child learns, speaks, and plays offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

### **What is a developmental delay?**

A developmental delay is when your child does not reach developmental milestones around a certain age.

### **What is Developmental Screening?**

Developmental screenings are ways that professionals can determine if a child is reaching developmental milestones or if they need additional support.

### **WHY: Why is Developmental Screening Important?**

Developmental screening is important because it can help you celebrate when your child meets his or her developmental milestones. It is also important because it can help you know if your child needs additional support. Earlier support can lead to better outcomes as your child grows.

**HOW:** If you have concerns or questions about your child's development and are interested in developmental screening, you can contact your child's pediatrician, your [local Health Department](https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/localdepartments.html), <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/localdepartments.html>, or [your local TEIS](https://www.tn.gov/education/early-learning/tennessee-early-intervention-system-teis.html) (Tennessee Early Intervention System) <https://www.tn.gov/education/early-learning/tennessee-early-intervention-system-teis.html>, and for children 3 years and older, you can contact the [School-Based Support Services](https://www.tn.gov/education/early-learning/school-based-support-centers.html), <https://www.tn.gov/education/early-learning/school-based-support-centers.html> of your local school system.

**For additional information about Developmental Monitoring and Screening, please click on the following links:**

- [Milestone Moments - Learn the Signs. Act Early](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/milestonemomentseng508.pdf)  
[https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents\\_pdfs/milestonemomentseng508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/milestonemomentseng508.pdf)
- [Developmental Milestones Checklist](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/checklists/all_checklists.pdf)  
[https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/checklists/all\\_checklists.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/checklists/all_checklists.pdf)
- [Learn More About Your Child's Development: Developmental Monitoring and Screening](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/developmentalscreening.pdf)  
[https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents\\_pdfs/developmentalscreening.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/developmentalscreening.pdf)