Early Childhood Screening

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Early Identification is Important

• Early identification can lead to early action
  o First 3 years critical to brain development
  o Brain most adaptable in early childhood
  o Early treatment most effective

• There is room for improvement
  o 20-30% of children with or at risk for problems are identified prior to starting school
  o Over 8 months between parent concern and early intervention (Part C) plan of care
What is Developmental Screening?

Administration of a brief standardized tool that aids identification of children at risk of a developmental disorder, conducted at 9, 18, and 24 or 30-month well child visits, or as as needed

• Quick and inexpensive to administer
• Many can be completed by parents and scored by non-physician
• Provides information that can lead to action
• Indicator of need for further assessment and follow-up—NOT a diagnosis
• Supports efficient use of resources for assessment, evaluation, and treatment


*Final Report of the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study*, January 2007
