

Developmental Screening Tools

Tools Recommended for General Developmental Screening

The following standardized, validated developmental screening tools are *recommended* for use in the Healthy Kids Program for general developmental screening of children through age 5 years:

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire, www.agesandstages.com
- Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status, www.pedstest.com

Tools Approved for General Developmental Screening¹

The complete list of standardized, validated developmental screening tools *approved* for use in the Healthy Kids Program for general developmental screening of children through age 5 years is as follows:

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- Battelle Developmental Inventory Screening Tool, 2nd ed.
- Brigance Screens-II
- Early Screening Inventory – Revised
- FirstSTEP Preschool Screening Tool
- Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status +/- PEDS:DM

Tool Selection Criteria

For a screening tool to be *approved* for use in the Healthy Kids Program, it must be judged by the Tool Selection Committee to reasonably meet the following criteria:

- ✓ **Availability:** the tool must be currently published and nationally distributed;
- ✓ **Purpose of Tool:** the tool must be used for general developmental screening, rather than for diagnostic evaluation/assessment or some other purpose;
- ✓ **Developmental Domains:** for general developmental screening, the tool must include fine and gross motor, language, problem-solving/adaptive behavior, and personal-social domains;
- ✓ **Age Span:** the tool must target children within the birth – 5 year age range (tool does not need to target this entire age span);
- ✓ **Standardization:** the tool should have been administered to a large, nationally representative sample to determine the instrument's norms; or administered to a large sample judged to be adequately diverse from a racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic standpoint;
- ✓ **Reliability:** the tool should have reliability scores of approximately .70 or above (the tool will be evaluated on the actual reliability scores, ex. inter-rater, test-retest, internal reliability, and the methods used to obtain them);
- ✓ **Validity:** the tool should have validity scores of approximately .70 or above (the tool will be evaluated on the actual validity scores, ex. concurrent validity, predictive validity, and the methods used to obtain them); and
- ✓ **Sensitivity and Specificity:** the tool should have sensitivity and specificity scores of approximately .70 or above (the tool will be evaluated on the actual sensitivity and specificity scores and the methods used to obtain them).

For a screening tool to be *recommended* for use in the Healthy Kids Program, it must also be judged to meet the following criteria:

- ✓ **Utility:** the tool must be useful in varied practice settings with diverse patient populations, demonstrated through the following:
 - Length of administration and scoring less than 30 minutes;
 - Minimal training required for professionals or paraprofessionals;
 - No greater than a 4th – 6th grade reading level for parent-report tools;
 - Minimal expense required to use tool successfully and continuously;
 - Availability in both English and Spanish; and
 - Demonstrated successful use in primary healthcare setting.

¹A written request may be made to the Maryland Healthy Kids Program to consider the additional tools to the list. This request must document how the proposed tool meets each of the tool selection criteria, including specific psychometric data and references.