



Watch Me Grow RI

What is Watch Me Grow RI?

Watch Me Grow RI is a partnership of the Rhode Island Department of Health and RI Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics.

Watch Me Grow RI is working to...

- increase the number of young children receiving developmental and behavioral health screening.
- increase the number of children getting appropriate assessment and intervention services.
- give information to each child's healthcare provider, childcare provider, and parents about developmental progress.
- train and support childcare providers to use developmental screening tools and share screening results with parents and healthcare providers.



What is developmental screening?

Child development is how each child learns new skills and activities as he or she grows.

Developmental screening compares a child's growth and development to standardized norms. Screening tells whether a child is learning basic skills when he or she should.

Developmental screening will help childcare providers to...

- understand how each child grows and learns.
- support a child's development through improved teaching strategies and curriculum building.
- quickly see if a child's development is on track.
- have discussions with parents about their child's development.



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Why is developmental screening important?

When a developmental delay is recognized early, children can get the help they need to reach their full potential.

In the United States about 17% of children have a developmental delay or behavioral problem, but less than half of these children are identified before starting school. Early and specialized attention to a child's development increases the likelihood that...

- skills and behaviors will improve.
- a child will enter school more ready to succeed.

What is the role of childcare providers?

Research indicates that over half of all children under age 6 have both parents working and attend some form of childcare. These children spend on average 28 hours per week in childcare. As a result, childcare providers are an important resource for developmental screening. Childcare providers have the opportunity daily to watch how a child...

- talks and understands.
- moves.
- interacts with others.
- solves problems.

Childcare providers can use this opportunity to complete developmental screenings and share results with children's parents and healthcare providers.

How Can Watch Me Grow RI Help Childcare Providers?

So often, we hear from childcare providers that they sense a child has a developmental delay but are unsure how to pass this information along. Watch Me Grow RI will support your program to consistently use developmental screening tools, assuring that you have the means to monitor children's development and keep parents and healthcare providers informed.

Watch Me Grow RI will provide your childcare site with training and technical assistance on...

- the *Ages and Stages Questionnaires & Early Childhood Screening Assessment*: how to administer these tools and talk with parents about the results.
- developing a system for sharing information with each child's healthcare provider and parents.

