MILESTONES MATTER!

EARLY CARE PROFESSIONALS AND FAMILIES
WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

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Agenda – Missouri Milestones Matter

- GOALS and BENEFITS
- IMPLEMENTATION
- TALKING WITH PARENTS
- NEXT STEPS
- RESOURCES

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GOALS

LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY.

- Identifying healthy developmental milestones
- Tracking children's development
- Acting early if there are concerns

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones

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Developmental Monitoring

• *Observing* the specific way a child plays, learns, acts, speaks and moves on a regular basis.

• *Tracking* a child's development using a standardized instrument.

• *Celebrating* strengths and *identifying* areas in need of additional support.

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Developmental Milestones

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The BENEFITS of Developmental Monitoring

❖ Increases understanding of child development.

❖ Parents know their children best and are accurate reporters.

❖ Monitoring with a checklist guides parents to access support when there are concerns.

❖ Early interventions provide practice, exposure, or specialized therapies.

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Slide 7

- ❖ Most children are developing on track.
- ❖ Some children will need support.
- ❖ A few children will need referral for specialized support.

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Slide 8

Frequency of Developmentally Monitoring and Screening

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- Developmental Monitoring or surveillance ongoing
- Validated developmental screening at 9, 18, and 24/30 month well child visits or when there is a concern
- Autism specific screen at 18 and 24 months
- Social and emotional screening at "regular intervals"

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Slide 9

Developmental Monitoring vs Developmental Screening

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Developmental Monitoring vs Developmental Screening

Developmental Monitoring		Developmental Screening	
WHO:	Early childhood professionals, parents, or other caregivers	WHO:	Healthcare provider, early childhood professional, or other trained provider
WHAT:	Look for developmental milestones	WHAT:	Look for developmental milestones
WHEN:	From birth to 5 years	WHEN:	Developmental Screening at 9, 18, and 30 months of age. Autism Screening at 18 and 24 months of age
WHY:	To help you:	WHY:	To find out:
	↗ celebrate your child's development		↗ if your child needs more help with development, because it is not always obvious to doctors, child care providers, or parents
	↗ talk about your child's progress with doctors and child care providers		↗ if more developmental evaluations are recommended
	↗ learn what to expect next		
	↗ identify any concerns early		
HOW:	With easy, free checklists – get yours at www.cdc.gov/Milestones	HOW:	With a formal, validated screening tool

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The Who of Developmental Monitoring

- Early care educators
- Medical providers
- Interventionists
- Home Visitors
- FAMILIES

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The Role of Early Care Professionals with Families

❖ A trusting partnership depends on ongoing communication and both partners sharing information about the child.

❖ When families trust the professionals in their child's world, they are more likely to engage and respond positively when conversations are challenging.

❖ **What practices do you use to build a trusting relationship with families?**

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CDC DOMAINS of Developmental Milestones

- Social/Emotional
- Language/Communication
- Cognitive (learning, thinking and problem solving)
- Movement/Physical Development

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Milestones in Action
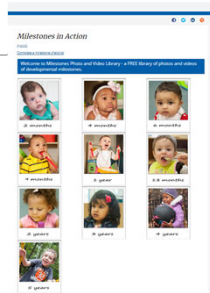
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/milestones-in-action.html

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PREPARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Choosing the tools to use
  - Paper checklists
  - CDC's Milestones Tracker
- Process that fits your program
  - Frequency
  - Reporting
- Advertising/Communication

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Using monitoring checklists

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Choosing a monitoring checklist

* The CDC's developmental checklists follow the schedule for healthy child visits.

* This table makes it easy to determine which checklist to use.

Choose Checklist:	For children in this age range:
2 month	2 months old, but not yet 4 months old
4 month	4 months old, but not yet 6 months old
6 month	6 months old, but not yet 9 months old
9 month	9 months old, but not yet 1 year old
1 year	1 year old, but not yet 18 months old
18 month	18 months old, but not yet 2 years old
2 year	2 years old, but not yet 3 years old
3 year	3 years old, but not yet 4 years old
4 year	4 years old, but not yet 5 years old
5 year	5 years old

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Milestones Tracker App

- Available for Apple and Android users.
- Includes photos and videos for each milestone.
- Completed on parents' schedule.
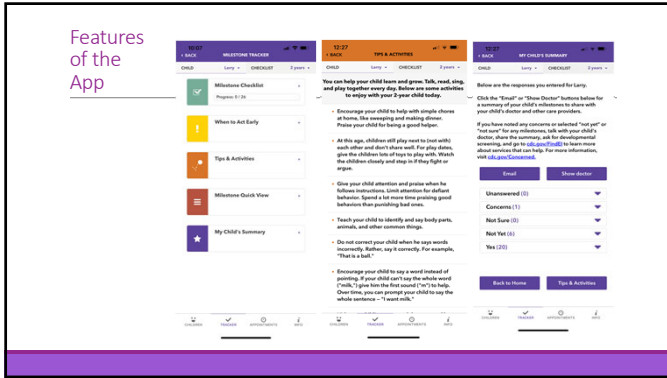- Automatic reminders for next interval.

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Features of the App

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Process: Frequency and Reporting

- How often will you review developmental checklists?
- How will you manage the reporting of a child's progress?
- Time, staffing, and family support are all considerations.

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Advertising and Communication

- How will you inform the community about Missouri Milestones Matter?
- How will you maintain interest in the program?
- Emphasize the benefits of developmental monitoring and the ease with which it can be done. Remind parents that they are the experts on their child.

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IMPLEMENTATION

- Monitoring

- Talking with families

- Taking next steps

- Continuing to communicate, monitor, and educate

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Monitoring Development in your program

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Talking with Families

- Relationship
- Recognize strengths
- Recognize the goals and values of the family

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Positive Conversation with Families

1. Listen
2. After listening, repeat back in your own words the parent's main point
3. Consider how the parent feels about what they are saying
4. Approach all children and families with warmth, kindness and respect

Remember what you all have in common: *THEIR CHILD*!

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Cultural Differences for Consideration

VALUES BEHAVIORS

BELIEFS ATTITUDES

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Next Steps After Developmental Monitoring

- Review developmental milestones with families – page 7

- Some children may be missing some or all milestones – page 8

- Tips for talking with parents – pages 9 and 10

- Next Steps

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Community Resource Worksheet

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How to support families through next steps?

1. Stay in touch
2. Ask if they need assistance making contact for any suggested referrals
3. Remind families of their choices.
4. Talking with families – (pg 10)

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Continuing to communicate, monitor, and educate

- Remind parents to monitor their child's development.
- Use the checklists in your program and check-in with parents on progress.
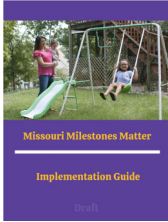- Talk to parents about how you are supporting their children's development.

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Implementation Guide

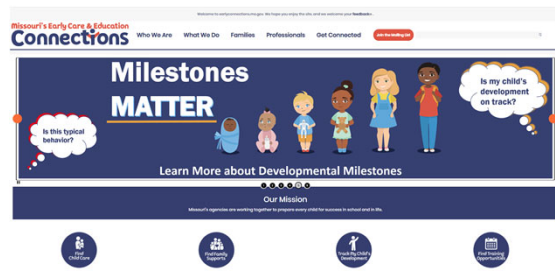Use this resource to guide you through specific steps of the developmental monitoring process.

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WWW.EarlyConnections.Mo.Gov

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THANK YOU!

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