

Partnering with Parents in Developmental Screenings

By Missi Baranko
Missi.Baranko@uspirend.org
 701-941-2825



1


Our Journey:

- Developmental Screening
- Making Decisions
- Family Support
- Impact







2

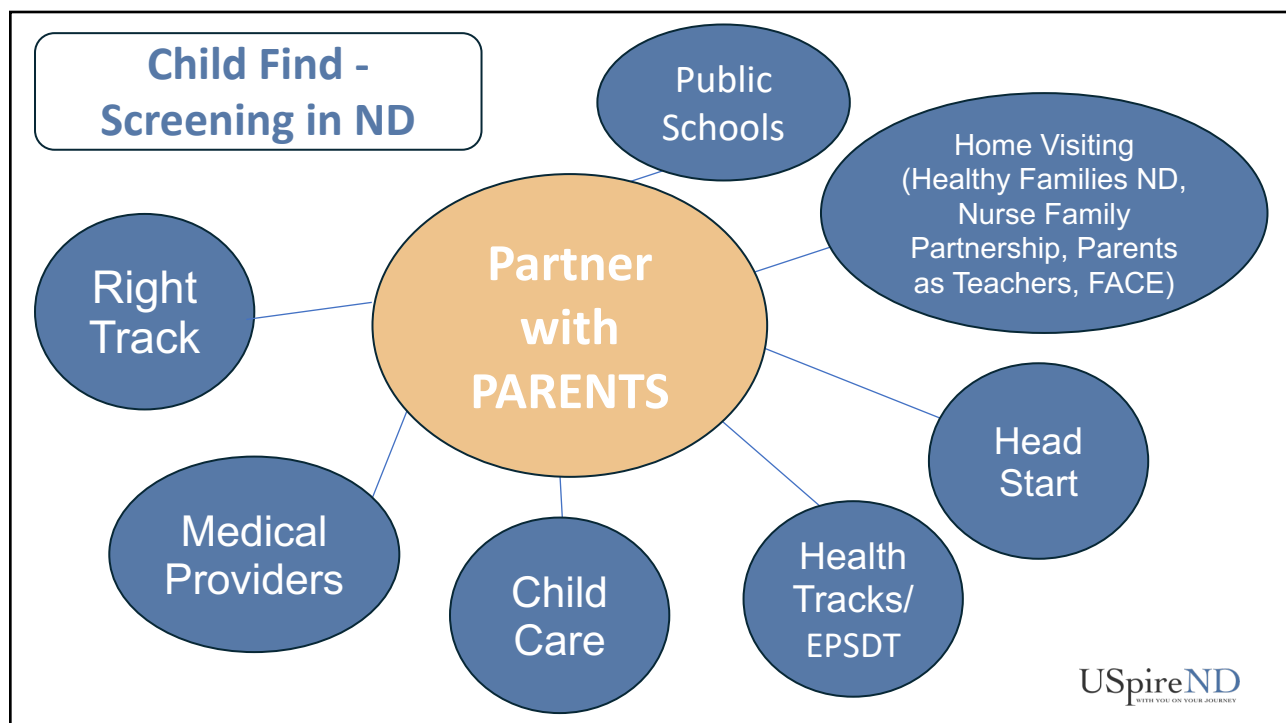
What is a Screening?

Brief assessment used to identify a child's progress through key developmental milestones. These milestones include how a child learns, speaks, moves, behaves, and interacts with others.

Parents are the experts on their own children. By partnering with them in the screening process, we not only gain valuable insights but also empower them to support their child's development.

USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

3



4

Using Parent Completed Screening Tools

Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ): This tool includes a series of questionnaires that parents can fill out to assess their child's development in areas such as communication, motor skills, problem-solving, and social-emotional behavior



CDC's Milestone Tracker App: This app allows parents to track their child's development by checking off milestones and provides tips on what to do if there are concerns



USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

5

Benefits to Families

1. **Empowerment:** Parents feel more empowered and involved in their child's development, fostering a sense of ownership and confidence in their parenting.
2. **Valuing:** Validates a parents concerns and conveys the value for and importance of the parents as the experts on their children.
3. **Enhanced Understanding:** Parents learn more about their child's developmental milestones and progress, which helps them understand their child's strengths and areas needing support.
4. **Early Detection:** By participating in screenings, parents can identify potential developmental delays early, allowing for timely intervention and support.
5. **Access to Resources:** Parents receive valuable resources and guidance from professionals, which can help them support their child's growth and development at home.
6. **Improved Communication:** Strong partnerships facilitate better communication between parents and professionals, ensuring that parents' concerns and observations are heard and addressed.

USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

6

Ways to Foster Partnerships with Parents

1. **Introduce the Screening Process:** Clearly explain the purpose and benefits of developmental screening to parents. Use positive language to frame the screening as a tool to observe and support their child's growth.
2. **Engage Parents Early:** Talk to parents before there are concerns. Normalize developmental screenings as a benefit to all children. This helps build familiarity and comfort with the process.
3. **Provide Resources:** Offer informational handouts, follow up on any concerns, refer the family to other supports in the community.
4. **Create Opportunities for Participation and Communication:** Encourage parents to participate in the screening process and related activities. This can include home visits, parent-teacher conferences, or other community events.
5. **Respect and Reciprocity:** Establish respectful, reciprocal relationships with parents. Recognize their expertise about their own children and allow them to lead the decision-making processes related to their child's care and education. As a professional your role is to share information and support.

USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

7

What it looks and doesn't look like

Looks Like

- Completed in the child's natural environment – using what is in the environment.
- Completed with the primary caregiver(s).
- Being clear on the purpose.
- Asking parents for their observations
- Using culturally responsible tools and approaches.
- Discussing results collaboratively.
- Considering all options for referrals, if needed, including financial or other impacts.

Doesn't Look Like

- Completing without primary caregiver(s).
- Bringing a bag of toys or items.
- Positioning professional as the authority
- Using jargon.
- Moving too quickly through the questions.
- Delivering results without context or support to include making referrals that may have a financial impact on the family.

USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

8

Parent Report

•ASQ-3 research found **93% agreement** between parents and professionals

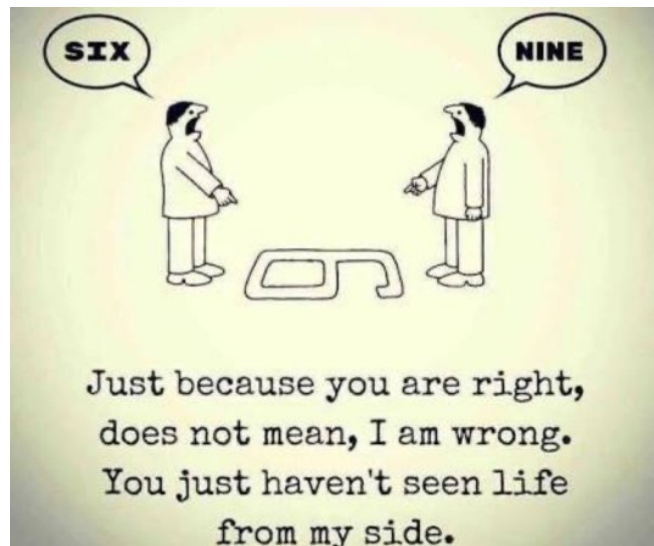
- Most parents are reliable and accurate when reporting on their child's development
- Parent concerns are highly predictive of child outcomes
- **Parents ARE the experts on their child!**



USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

9

But.....what if.....parents are wrong...



USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

10

Part C (Birth to 3): How to Make a Referral

Contact the Regional Human Service Center based on the family's home address

Information needed:

Child's name, DOB, parent's name, number, address.

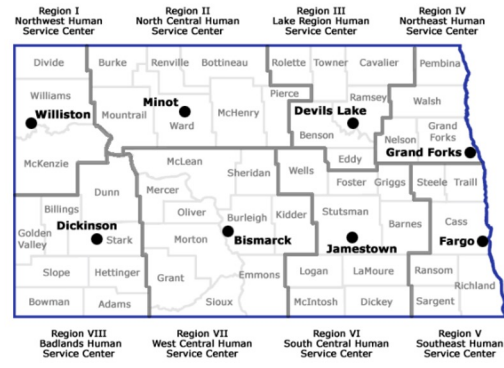
It's helpful to include the area(s) of concern (language, gross motor etc.)

and concern areas from screening tool, if applicable, such as the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE:2

What to say when making the call:

Ask to speak to someone with the "Developmental Disabilities" team.

Share the contact information and other relevant information related to the areas of concern or strengths.



<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/early-childhood-services/early-intervention>

USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

11

Part B: How to Make a Referral

Contact the School District where the child would attend Elementary School.

Information needed:

Child's name, DOB, parent's name, number, address.

It's helpful to include the area(s) of concern (language, gross motor etc.)

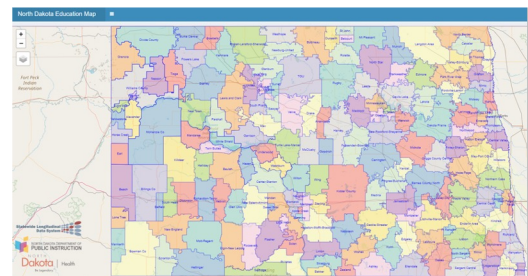
and concern areas from the Developmental Screening, if applicable.

What to say when making the call:

"I'm calling to make a referral to Early Childhood Special Education."

You will then be routed to share the child and family information.

After this phone call, the referral has officially been made.



USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

12

www.uspirend.org

Our Services

Healthy Families

We know you want to be a parent who provides a safe and healthy life for your child. When life gets hard, everyday feels like a fork in the road moment, which can feel frustrating or overwhelming. We meet you where you are, with visits taking place in your home, virtually or at a location in the community where you are most comfortable.

[Learn More](#)

Inclusion Support

We believe every child deserves the right to be respected, valued and included. Your job, as an early childhood provider, is critical to shaping the foundation for each child's future. We provide support, information, resources and coaching for licensed early childhood providers, caring for children with unique needs.

[Learn More](#)

USpireND
WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY