

POST-REFERRAL COMPONENT I SCREENING

Introduction

Additional major components of the statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency child find system are screenings, evaluations and assessments. They are referred to as post-referral procedures, e.g., procedures and activities that take place after a referral of an infant or toddler to a local tiny-k program by a primary referral source. The first of these components is **screening**. Providing screening after referral from a primary referral source is an option for local tiny-k programs. If this option is chosen, the screening becomes part of the 45-calendar-day timeline to complete the initial screening (optional), initial evaluation and assessments and the initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting. The 45-calendar-day timeline begins on the date of referral to the local tiny-k program.

I. Screening Procedures [34 CFR 303.320]

Though the U.S. Department of Education, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has provided a post-referral screening option for those states providing early intervention services. Kansas Infant-Toddler Services (KSITS) prefers infants or toddlers referred by a primary referral source to a local tiny-k program go straight to an evaluation. However, the local tiny-k program may choose the option to screen, after referral by a primary referral source, to determine whether the child is suspected of having a delay. If the local tiny-k program chooses to screen an infant or toddler after receiving a referral, there are specific procedures which must be followed. These procedures do not apply to child find community screenings offered in order to locate children less than three years of age who might need referral to a local tiny-k program.

“Screening procedures” means activities carried out by, or under the supervision of local tiny-k programs to identify, at the earliest possible age, infants and toddlers suspected of having a developmental delay. These activities are carried out using appropriate screening instruments by personnel trained to use these screening instruments. The five developmental domains must be addressed. These domains are: cognitive development, physical development (including health, nutrition, motor, vision and hearing), communication development, social and emotional development, and self-help/adaptive development.

A. Screening Provided by Primary Referral Sources

A primary referral source may screen an infant or toddler before referring the child to a local tiny-k program. **In this case, rescreening by the local tiny-k program is not necessary.** The local tiny-k program, in this instance, should begin obtaining consent for evaluation, while taking note that the 45-day timeline begins on the date the referral was made to them.

An infant or toddler must be referred to the local tiny-k program if he/she is involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect; or is identified as affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure. **The referral may be for screening or evaluation.** (See CAPTA section in appendix).

B. Screening Provided by Local tiny-k Programs

The local tiny-k program may provide screening for infants and toddlers who are referred by a primary referral source to determine whether they are suspected of having a disability. For example, such a referral may be the result of an infant or toddler being involved in child abuse or neglect or affected by illegal substance abuse. Screening shall be provided at no cost to the family.

1) If a local tiny-k program proposes to screen an infant or toddler, it must address the following requirements

(a) Provide prior written notice of its intent to screen the infant or toddler to identify whether the child is suspected of having a developmental delay. This notice should also include the following information:

The Prior Written Notice Form can be found at:

http://www.ksits.org/download/Prior_Written_Notice.doc

i. Information about the screening

ii. The reason for conducting the screening

iii. A description of the parent's right to request an evaluation at any time during the screening

(b) Obtain parental consent before conducting the screening.

The Consent for Screening Form can be found at:

http://www.ksits.org/download/Consent_for_Screening.doc

2) If the parent consents to the screening and the screening or other available information indicates the infant or toddler is suspected of having a developmental delay, the local tiny-k program must carry out the following responsibilities:

(a) Provide notice to the parents of its intent to evaluate the child

(b) Obtain written parental consent to evaluate

(c) With parental consent, conduct evaluation and assessments

3) If the infant or toddler is screened and the screening or other available information indicates the child is **not** suspected of having a developmental delay, the local tiny-k program must ensure the following occurs:

(a) Provide notice of this determination is given to the parent

(b) The notice describes the parent's right to request an evaluation

- 4) If the parent of the infant or toddler requests and consents to an evaluation at any time during the screening process, evaluation of the child must be conducted, even if the local tiny-k program has determined the child is not suspected of having a developmental delay.

All activities listed above should be carried out as required and described in applicable Procedural Safeguards, Section V and in Evaluation and Assessment Procedures, Section X of this manual.

II. Condition for Evaluation or Early Intervention Services

For every infant or toddler under the age of three who is referred to a local tiny-k program or screened under the screening option described in “B” above, the local tiny-k program is not required to complete the following activities:

- A. Provide an evaluation of the infant or toddler unless the child is suspected of having a developmental delay or the parent requests an evaluation at any time during the screening process, or
- B. Make early intervention services available to the infant or toddler unless a determination is made that the child meets the definition of *infant or toddler with a disability* as described in Section XI (Eligibility) of this manual.