

Assessment for Decision Making: *Screening*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

- **Reflect with Others**

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

- **The Power of Practice**

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How familiar am I with universal screening? How can I learn more about universal developmental screening?
- What developmental screening tool does my early childhood program use? Am I adequately prepared to use this tool for the entire screening process?
- What resources can I access to support my growing understanding and ability to conduct developmental screening? (See PD2GO *Resource Links* and *Digging Deeper* for this bundle.)
- What are some concerns I have about communicating with families regarding screening? Who can help me address these concerns?
- How can I improve my program's universal screening practices?

TRY IT OUT!

Make universal screening a priority in your early childhood program. Discuss your program's screening policies at an upcoming staff meeting.

- Review your program's screening tool. Does everyone know how to use it well throughout the screening process? Is it clear what the results mean?
- Make a plan to ensure all teachers/providers are adequately prepared and informed to use the screening tool.
- When and how often does your program conduct developmental screening?
- Discuss the family's role in developmental screening and how your program can collaborate with families during the screening process.

How Did It Go?

Reflect on your program practices around screening before and after this exercise. How did the discussions with colleagues strengthen your screening practices? What action steps does your program need to make to effectively implement universal screening?

What Next?

Plan a workshop to share information about developmental screening with families. Use information from this bundle's *Resource Links*, *Family Connections*, and *Digging Deeper* to start the conversation about universal screening. Share information with families about the screening tool your program uses. Ongoing communication with families about the benefits of early screening can ease challenging conversations that may arise if their children need further evaluation. Continual improvement of screening practices ensures that children who need further evaluation and early intervention will get these valuable services. Check out our next bundle, *Observation and Documentation*, to learn about purposeful observation and effective documentation.