

## Information for Providers

### Importance of surveillance and screening

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that every well-child visit include developmental surveillance that assesses social-emotional development, as well as cognitive, communicative, and physical development. This is also an excellent opportunity to assess for family risk factors, like family stress or caregiver depression.

The AAP also recommends that all children receive developmental screening with a standardized tool at the 9, 18, and 30 (or 24) month well-child visits or whenever a concern is raised by parents or health care professionals. An autism-specific screening tool should be administered at the 18 and 24 month well-child visits or whenever a parent raises a concern.

Without use of a standardized screening tool, only 20% of young children with mental health problems and 30% of children with developmental delays are identified. By using a standardized screening tool, physicians are able to identify 80-90% of children with mental health problems and 70-80% of children with developmental disabilities.

Research indicates that parents want and expect support from their child's physician on child development.

### Why should primary care providers get involved with 1st Five?

- In Iowa, over 90% of children ages birth to five are seen by a primary care provider, giving them the unique opportunity to play an important role in early identification of developmental concerns and family risk factors.
- 1st Five can help providers by finding resources for families who continually miss appointments due to family stress or transportation challenges.
- 1st Five can help providers implement surveillance and screening tools that will assist them in talking with parents about issues that may be negatively impacting their child's development.
- 1st Five will follow up with all children and families referred by physicians to ensure that they get connected to all beneficial community resources and public service providers available. 1st Five will then follow up with referring physicians on the outcome of each of their referrals.

### How can you get involved with 1st Five?

Contact your local 1st Five coordinator.