

Why is 1st Five important?

Research tells us that a significant portion of young children are not receiving adequate developmental surveillance and screening. Current brain research indicates that social and emotional development in young children is as important as physical, cognitive, and language development.

- Between 9.5% and 14.2% of children from birth to 5 years of age experience social and emotional development problems that cause suffering to the child and family and interfere with functioning.
- Nationally, 71% of pediatricians use only observation of development to screen children; however, this method identifies only 30% of young children with developmental concerns.
- Only 1 in 6 children with a developmental concern are identified before starting school, leaving teachers to identify and handle most developmental and behavioral problems in the classroom. These unidentified concerns affect all children in a classroom since teachers must regularly attend to a disruptive child. It is to the benefit of all children to identify and intervene with developmental concerns early.
- When young children do not achieve the milestones linked to healthy mental development, they are at risk to do poorly in the early school years, putting them at increased risk for school failure, juvenile delinquency, and other problems.

When developmental concerns are not identified, then it is less likely families will get linked to community-based intervention services. Additionally, many providers are not aware of available resources to refer families to, even when a concern is identified. 1st Five provides the necessary links to up-to-date community-based resources that match the needs of the family and child.