

# Developmental and Social-Emotional Screening in Early Childhood

## CHILD AND TEEN CHECKUPS (C&TC) FACT SHEET FOR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

### C&TC Requirements

#### General

Developmental surveillance is required at all C&TC visits. Routine and periodic screening using a recommended standardized instrument is strongly recommended.

- **Developmental screening** at nine, 18, and 30 months of age and once between three and five years of age
- **Social-emotional screening** at six months of age, continuing every six months through two years of age, then yearly
- Refer to the [C&TC Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening Fact Sheet](https://health.state.mn.us) ([health.state.mn.us](https://health.state.mn.us))

#### Personnel

A licensed health care provider must perform surveillance: physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or a registered or public health nurse (RN or PHN) who has completed the C&TC Comprehensive Screening training through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Screening personnel qualifications are instrument-specific; refer to each instrument's instruction manual for more information.

### Documentation

Document developmental surveillance in the C&TC visit record. Documentation must include the name of the screening instrument(s) used, score(s), and screening result-specific anticipatory guidance provided to the parent or caregiver. Documentation of atypical screening results must include a plan of care and appropriate referrals.

For documentation examples, refer to the [C&TC Provider Documentation Forms](https://mn.gov/dhs) ([mn.gov/dhs](https://mn.gov/dhs)).

### Procedure

#### Surveillance

Surveillance includes obtaining parent or caregiver concerns about development, a history of the child's social-emotional and current functioning, making accurate observations of the child's development, identifying risk and protective factors, and accurately documenting findings.

#### Screening Instruments

Separate instruments are needed for developmental and social-emotional screening. Refer to [Instruments at a Glance for C&TC Clinic Settings](https://health.state.mn.us) ([health.state.mn.us](https://health.state.mn.us)).

## Referral and Management

Review the screening results with the child's parent or caregiver. Do not wait and see when a concern is identified. Prompt referral, evaluation, and treatment can improve a child's long-term outcomes and developmental path.

## Comprehensive Medical Evaluation

A comprehensive medical evaluation, performed by the primary care provider, determines further developmental evaluation, treatment, eligibility, and necessity for early intervention services.

## Educational Evaluation

Refer either directly to the local school district or through [Help Me Grow \(HelpMeGrowMN.org\)](https://www.helpmegrowmn.org) *as soon as concerns are identified*.

## Mental Health Evaluation

Refer to the [map of Early Childhood Mental Health services by county \(dhs.state.mn.us\)](https://dhs.state.mn.us) to find local providers.

## Follow-Up

Establish a follow-up process with the family after referral to ensure access. With the parent's permission, coordinate with educational and other professionals. Close the loop by documenting referral results.

## Professional Recommendations

## American Academy of Pediatrics

Provide developmental surveillance at every well visit and developmental

screening with a standardized instrument at specific ages and whenever surveillance demonstrates risk (Lipkin, Macias, & Council on Children with Disabilities, 2020).

## Resources

### Minnesota Department of Human Services

- [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards \(dhs.state.mn.us\)](https://dhs.state.mn.us)
- [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Manual - C&TC Section \(dhs.state.mn.us\)](https://dhs.state.mn.us)

### Minnesota Department of Health

- [Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\) \(www.health.state.mn.us\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us)
- [C&TC Developmental and Social-Emotional Screening in the Clinic Setting \(health.state.mn.us\)](https://health.state.mn.us)
- [Help Me Connect \(health.state.mn.us\)](https://health.state.mn.us)

## References

Lipkin, P., Macias, M., & Council on Children with Disabilities, S. o. (2020). Promoting Optimal Development: Identifying Infants and Young Children With Developmental Disorders Through Developmental Surveillance and Screening. *Pediatrics*, 145(1). doi:10.1542/peds.2019-3449

## For More Information

The Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) program is administered through a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health.

For questions about this fact sheet or to obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-3650 or email [health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us](mailto:health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us).

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