



Children's Mental Health Early Screening and Assessment



Children's
Advocacy
ALLIANCE

Early Intervention Leads to Better Mental Health Outcomes

Healthy development in early childhood is **essential** for the **long-term success** and independence of children, but they lack access to early screening and assessments. The **problem: providers are not supported** to conduct screenings and diagnosis of **early childhood disorders** including intellectual disabilities, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), and specific learning disorders. This means that **our children are not receiving necessary resources** to support their healthy development.

Without screening, early intervention is unattainable



Recommendation

Mandate that all insurance in Nevada provides **adequate and competitive reimbursement rates** to health care providers performing screenings for **developmental disorders of childhood.**

What Developmental Screenings Exist in Nevada?

- There is **no current mandate** for **universal developmental screenings.**
- Nevada **only** provides screenings for childhood developmental disorders **after** traits of the disability have been identified.*
- Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) is a **screening program required** for **child** recipients of **Medicaid** and the Nevada Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) called **Nevada Check Up** (NCU).
- Early developmental screenings are **preventative**, rather than reactive, and help identify a **suspected disability** and create a **treatment plan** early.
- A diagnosis & treatment plan are essential for accessing **early intervention services** in Nevada.
- **Early intervention**, prior to 3 years old, **lowers** the likelihood that the child will need continued services later. Conversely, **delayed treatment** leads to **longer durations of care** and slower developmental progress.

Developmental Disabilities in Nevada

As of 2022

26,182 students ages 3-21 have **specific learning disabilities***

2,226 have **intellectual disabilities** in Nevada*

As of 2019

5.7% of children in Nevada have been diagnosed with **ADHD***

Approximately 5% (24,330/486,600) of students in Nevada may have **FASD** but **not all** have been diagnosed*

Developmental monitoring should take place at every well-child visit in the first year, following the **Bright Futures**, or the **Agnes and Stages** model.

In addition to pediatrician support, we must continue to support Early Head Start programs, who are equipped to administer developmental screenings. It is necessary to raise awareness in the early childhood community (providers, parents, and educators) about the importance of screening for developmental disorders in childhood.



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