The Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines (LDSG) expand screening beyond developmental milestones and autism to include social-emotional, environmental risk and parent well-being. These voluntary guidelines promote national best practices and support providers with resources to build comprehensive screening services at the practice level.

**Why Developmental Screening?**
- Approximately 15% (1 in 6) of U.S. children have a developmental disability
- Only 2-3% of U.S. children receive public early intervention services by age 3
- Quality early intervention services can change a child’s developmental trajectory and improve life-long outcomes for children, families, and communities

**Developmental Screening Operational Definition**
All children in Louisiana should receive periodic, developmentally appropriate, comprehensive screenings as part of a well-child visit or other preventive visit and in response to parent concern or triggering events such as hospitalization, trauma, or sudden onset of new symptoms. Comprehensive screenings include screening for physical health, oral health, mental health, developmental and psychosocial needs, with consideration of family culture and language.

**Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines Periodicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in months</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>24</th>
<th>30*</th>
<th>36</th>
<th>48</th>
<th>60</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Development*</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>(x- -x)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism*</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Emotional</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Well-being</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Follows AAP recommended screening periodicity
( ) Denotes that screening should occur once during the range of visits in parentheses

**Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines Recommended Instruments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Recommended Instruments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Development</td>
<td>Ages and Stages Questionnaire – 3 (ASQ-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Emotional</td>
<td>Early Childhood Screening Assessment (ECSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preschool Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PPSC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Social Emotional (ASQ-SE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-Chat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Well-being</td>
<td>Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*embedded in SEEK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE each have an associated one-time nominal fee. The remainder of the recommended tools are public domain and available for free download.

In 2015 the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Public Health (OPH) and Office of Behavioral Health convened an action learning collaborative focused on building a shared agenda across systems to support the health, development, and wellness of young children. The YCWC brought together various public health and community agencies to work toward improving systems of care for children in Louisiana. This cross-sector state team continues its work to advance cross system maternal and child health (MCH) priorities.

Under the auspices of the Louisiana YCWC, a developmental screening workgroup was tasked with providing guidance around comprehensive developmental screening for Louisiana. The workgroup selected and endorsed a limited group of screening instruments, across key developmental domains, to be promoted in primary care and other settings. The Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines (LDSG) expand screening beyond developmental milestone and autism screening as recommended by the 2006 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy, and follows the 2014 Standards for Systems of Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN), the 2012 AAP Policy Statement on childhood adversity and toxic stress, and the 2015 AAP Clinical Report addressing screening for social and emotional risk.

The Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines are designed to support pediatric and family medicine providers with the tools to implement and build robust developmental screening services at the practice level. Free trainings, materials, and technical assistance are available for Louisiana providers serving children 0-5 years.

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