

## Parents as Teachers and First Steps Working Together

Presented By  
Paula Harvey, Parents as Teachers &  
Sarah Camp, First Steps



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## Why Screen?

- Promote and support healthy growth and development
- Gather information on the child
- Identify strengths and abilities of the child
- Offer parent information and support
- Identify children in need of further evaluation
- Promote early intervention



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## Parents as Teachers - Components of Screening

- Developmental Screening
- Health Review (Health Record)
- Hearing
- Vision
- Dental
- Measurements
- Record of Immunizations

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### Options for Processing the First Steps Referral

The SPOE has **45 days** from the date of referral to conduct the intake visit, determine eligibility, and if eligible, complete the initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting.

#### Proceeding with the Referral

The SPOE is responsible for assigning a Service Coordinator as soon as possible once a referral is received. If the referral was made by a primary referral source other than the parent, an initial contact with the parent is made to explain the reason for the referral. This initial contact with the parent occurs within two business days of the referral.

#### Refusing the Referral

In rare occasions, the SPOE can refuse a referral when there is no reason to suspect a developmental delay, newborn or medical condition.

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### First Steps Evaluation Process

Evaluation in First Steps includes these five components:

- Taking the child's history
- Gathering information
- Reviewing medical, educational or other records
- Administering an instrument (i.e., DAVC)
- Identifying the child's level of functioning



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### Using Informed Clinical Opinion (ICO) in First Steps

ICO may be considered when test scores do not indicate a half-age delay but one or more professionals involved in the evaluation identify concerns with **atypical development**.

Information from the evaluation that may be used for ICO:

- Parent report
- Parents as Teachers screening or health records
- Medical records
- Physician statement
- Birth or family history

Questions to consider:

- Has the child lost skills or stopped making progress?
- Has more than one person expressed concern with atypical development?
- Is atypical development impacting the child's functioning in daily routines and activities?

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## First Steps Eligibility Determination

If found **ineligible**, the Service Coordinator will:

- Provide the family with a copy of the evaluation
- Refer the family to other resources, such as Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start, Head Start, other service providers accessible via private or public insurance.

If found **eligible**, the Service Coordinator will:

- Conduct the Family Assessment
- Develop an IFSP within 45 days of the referral date
- Review the IFSP regularly
- Support transition from First Steps
- Refer to community resources, when appropriate



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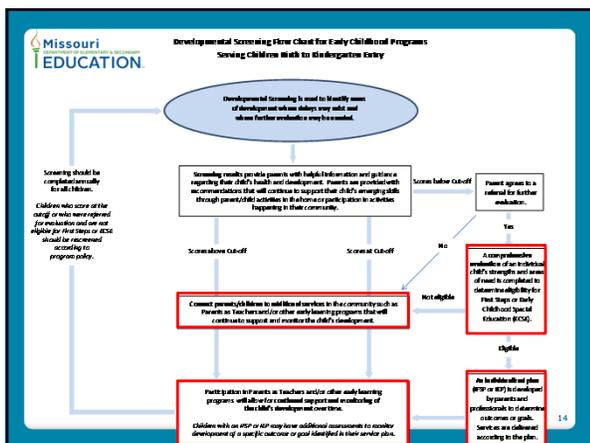
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## Questions?

**For Parents as Teachers:**  
Contact Your Local School District

**For First Steps:**  
Contact the local SPOE office or call:  
866-583-2392



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