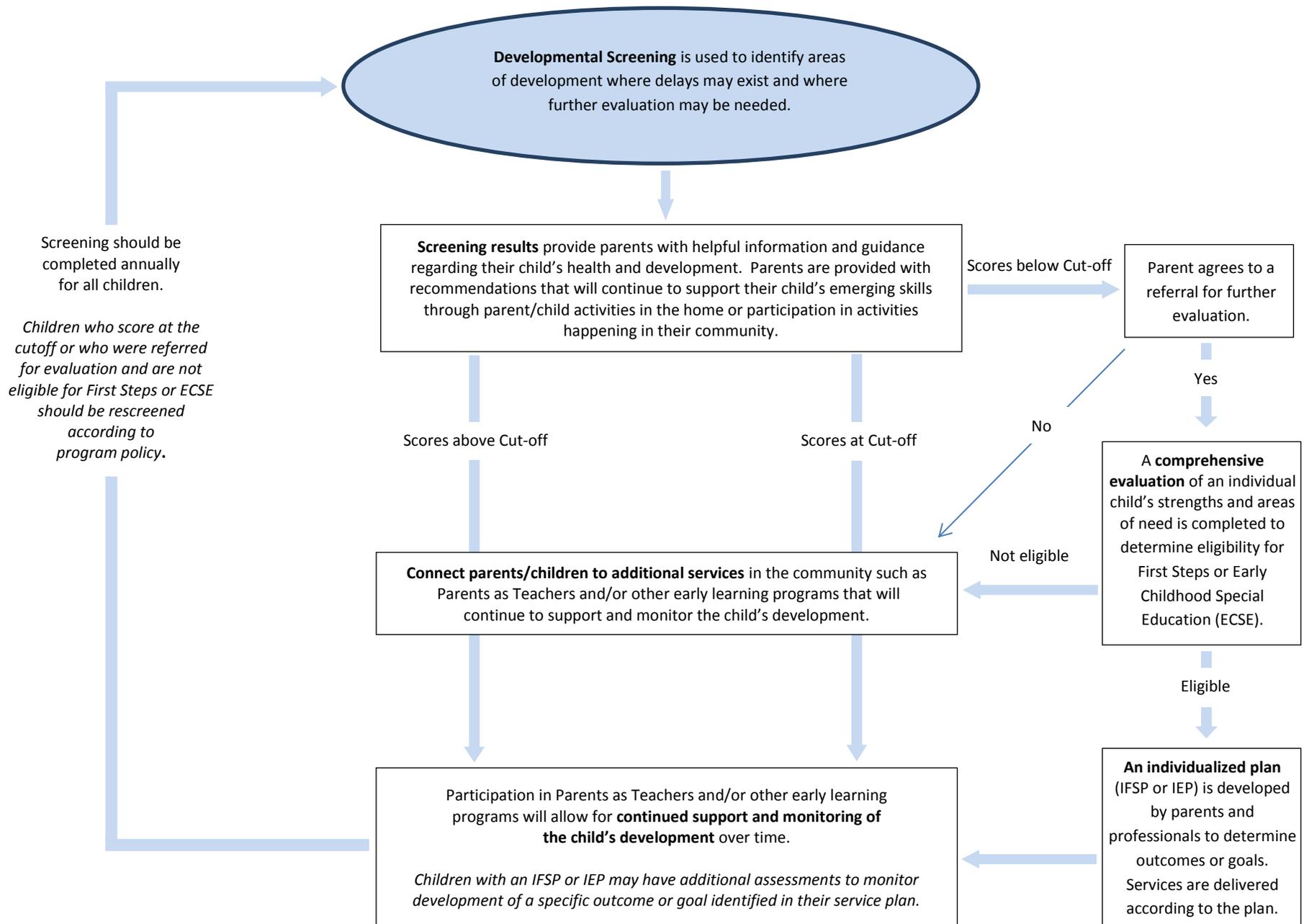


Developmental Screening Flow Chart for Early Childhood Programs Serving Children Birth to Kindergarten Entry



Developmental Screening for Early Childhood Programs Serving Children Birth to Kindergarten Entry

Developmental Screening

All children between the ages of 3 months to kindergarten entry should have annual health screenings (dental, height and weight checks, hearing, and vision) and developmental screenings (general and social/emotional).

Screening Results

Most developmental screening assessments are standardized and norm-referenced which ensures that all children receive the same experience. Screening results are valid, reliable, and authentic when the administration and scoring of the screening tool is according to the publisher's standards. Parents should receive verbal and written summaries explaining the results as soon as possible following the screening. Developmental screenings have a cut-off score that is used to determine whether there is a concern in an area. It is possible that a child can score below the cut-off in some domains and not in others; however, screening results typically indicate one of the following:

- **Scores above cut-off:** Development is considered to be on track for the child's age. Continue monitoring the child for developmental growth and parents should be connected to early learning resources and programs for continued developmental support.
- **Scores right at cut-off:** Development is unclear. Further information should be obtained from parents to develop a clearer picture of any concerns or the child's current development. Parents should be connected to programs such as Parents as Teachers and/or other early learning services to provide continued support and monitoring of the child's development.
- **Scores below cut-off:** Development may be delayed. Consider a follow up with the parents and/or a referral for further evaluation. Through follow up, additional information will be gathered to help provide appropriate strategies to foster the child's development. Once information is gathered from the parents and strategies have been implemented, the child should be re-screened according to the program's policy. If delays continue after strategies have been in place and screening has been re-administered, then with parental permission the child should be referred to First Steps or Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) for further evaluation.

***Inconsistent screening results merit close monitoring and additional services, as needed.** Children who score close to the cut-off, below the cut-off, or who have an inconsistent scoring pattern, may do so for a variety of reasons. Professionals need to pay close attention to family circumstances and other child factors, such as chronic illness or stress, which may explain inconsistent screening results before a referral for further evaluation is made.*

Connect Parents/Children to Additional Services

Parents as Teachers and/or other early learning programs and services provide continued support to the family and monitoring of a child's development. Children scoring at or above cut-off should continue to participate in early childhood programs or be provided with resources to support their emerging skills.

Comprehensive Evaluation and Individualized Plan

Parents should be fully informed about the referral process and the importance of additional testing by a specialist. Testing results will help determine eligibility for First Steps (birth to 3 years of age) or ECSE (age 3 to 5 years of age). Children qualifying for First Steps will have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Children qualifying for ECSE will have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Both plans are developed by parents and professionals to determine outcomes or goals for the child. Services are reviewed annually.

Continued Support and Monitoring of the Child's Development

A child's development changes rapidly during the early years. Developmental concerns should be identified early so resources can be put in place to effectively and efficiently support the child's development. Continual monitoring can help suggest whether a child is progressing. Reviewing the child's progress can give direction on how to support and encourage a child's continued growth and learning.