



# Developmental Screening Partnership Update

Improving Access to Developmental Screening  
for All Young Children in Washington State

January 2011  
Vol. 1, Issue 1

## INSIDE

- Why We Are Here ...
- DS Info Added to WithinReach ParentHelp123
- COMING SOON!  
Developmental Screening Page on Medical Home Site
- Developmental Screening Workgroups
- Help Me Grow Replication Grant

## CONTACTS

**Rebecca Davis-Suskind**  
Consultant  
Contracted by WithinReach  
and UW through DOH funding  
206.685.0217 / 415.254.5436  
[rkds@uw.edu](mailto:rkds@uw.edu)

**Rebecca Heinrich**  
Coordinator  
DOH Project LAUNCH Grant  
360.236-3509  
[Rebecca.Heinrich@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Heinrich@doh.wa.gov)

**Carol Miller**  
Coordinator  
DOH Autism Awareness Grant  
360.236.3572  
[Carol.Miller@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Carol.Miller@doh.wa.gov)

## Why We Are Here ...

Increasing developmental screening is a goal for many Washington partners from health care and early learning providers to parents and federal funders. At the state level, key stakeholders created a united vision of a statewide system for developmental screening of all Washington's young children (Universal Developmental Screening).

Planning efforts are supported by funding from the Department of Health's Project LAUNCH and Autism Awareness grants and the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program within the Department of Early Learning. Stakeholders last met in June 2010 at the Developmental Screening Partnership Committee meeting. This update shares the new work happening since that meeting.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative work toward universal developmental screening for all young children. Please feel free to send your input, ideas or concerns to any of the contacts listed in the bottom left column.

## DS Info on the WithinReach ParentHelp123 Website

Child development information has been added to the WithinReach ParentHelp123 website. Under both the "new babies" and "families" tabs, there are now links to CHILD Profile's "Watch and Help Me Grow" brochures. Here parents can learn about early developmental growth and milestones. The web page also links to a CDC Fact Sheet about screening. If parents have other questions, they will be directed to talk with their health care provider or call the Family Health Hotline 1-800-322-2488.

Funding for these enhancements was provided by the [DOH Project LAUNCH](#).



## COMING SOON!

### Developmental Screening Page on Medical Home Site

The University of Washington's Medical Home website will soon have a developmental screening partnership page. All partners and stakeholders will be able to access the site and share information. Developmental Screening workgroups will share documents, comments and feedback. Others can post information and news about developmental screening work happening around the state.

Many of you have reviewed "The Strategic Framework for a Statewide System for Universal Developmental Screening." The project's "Outcome Map" for universal developmental screening developed by the stakeholders and the Framework will be posted to this site.



### ***Help Me Grow National Replication Grant***

Through a competitive process, WithinReach was chosen to receive technical assistance and support for Washington's developmental screening efforts. The [Connecticut Children's Medical Center's HMG National Technical Assistance Center](#) provides the assistance. Only three other states - Delaware, Massachusetts and Utah - received this grant.

Help Me Grow (HMG) is an innovative system that is cost-effective, efficient, and user-friendly. The system provides a mechanism for identifying children from birth to age eight with developmental or behavioral issues. Families are then able to connect to appropriate community resources in a timely manner through a single-point-of-entry.

The National Technical Assistance Center has worked with similar efforts in other communities and will provide the Washington team with consultation, research, policy analysis and development, and evaluation.. This Technical assistance supports the work currently underway in our state and assists in moving to the next step of planning and implementation.

The HMG program in Connecticut supports its sites through evaluation designed to collect process measures such as the quantity and types of calls; rates of developmental screening and surveillance; and parent and child health provider satisfaction. National replication of *HMG* increases awareness among parents, clinicians, policy makers, and the public about the importance of early identification and intervention for at-risk children.

### ***Developmental Screening Workgroups***

The next step in planning efforts for a statewide system is to look at the system's core components. To facilitate collaboration and reduce duplication across sectors, workgroups are being formed to address four distinct areas:

#### ■ **Screening Systems**

This group outlines the proposed system, to include, but not limited to: location of system; who provides oversight; activities at the local and state levels; screening tools; and accessibility.

#### ■ **Database Registry**

This group will identify current systems available. They will also determine the best registry for the developmental screening data, taking into consideration several factors such as privacy and access issues.

#### ■ **Resources and Care Coordination**

This group will determine how to meet the needs and demands around care coordination, resource awareness, making and tracking referrals, the role of providers and partners, and gaps and barriers in service.

#### ■ **Reaching All Populations**

This group will identify the populations that might need extra effort to reach, where these populations are, and how to improve their access to the system.

The workgroups are made up of a diverse group of state and multi-county stakeholders invested in this project. They include state agencies, local providers, health care providers, child care organizations, public health departments, early childhood programs and parents. Participants are being recruited from each of these sectors.

The groups will meet virtually for the first time in February 2011 and are still accepting members in each group. If you want to learn more, get involved, or refer a colleague to the workgroups, contact Rebecca Davis-Suskind.



### ***Yakima Provider Survey***

In Yakima County, Dr. Diane Liebe leads a community-wide developmental screening committee. Funding for this work is through a CATCH grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The committee conducted interviews to determine where developmental screening was taking place in the Yakima valley, what tools were used, and how information is being shared. They also completed a recent survey for pediatric and family practice providers (physicians, PA-Cs and ARNPs). Fifty-seven percent who received the survey responded. The committee expects to share the results soon and develop an action plan based on the data collected.