

JULY, 2008

ADAMS COUNTY CHILD HEALTH NOTES

Promoting early identification and partnerships between families, primary health care providers & the community.

Distributed by: Adams County Health Department

Contributors: Washington State Department of Health and UW – Center on Human Development & Disability



“Early identification of developmental disorders is ... an integral function of the primary care medical home and an appropriate responsibility of all pediatric health care professionals.”

*AAP Policy Statement
2006*

Decision Tree: Child with Special Needs Referral Process

Early detection of children with developmental, behavioral, and emotional delays or disabilities is an important responsibility of primary health care providers. About 16-18% of children have disabilities such as speech-language impairments, mental retardation, learning disabilities, and emotional/behavioral disturbance. Many disabilities are subtle and are not easy to detect early. When there are concerns about possible developmental or emotional/behavioral disability it may be helpful to obtain further assessment(s) from specialists such as an occupational therapist, physical therapist, psychologist, or speech and language pathologist.

The Washington State Department of Health - Children with Special Health Care Needs Program, in partnership with the Department of Social and Health Services - Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program and local public health nurses, developed the *Decision Tree: Child with Special Needs Referral Process*. The purpose of the Decision Tree is to help primary care providers connect families with resources for further developmental assessment, intervention services, and Care Coordination services. The Adams County Decision Tree is included in this health note.

Use the Decision Tree to help you immediately identify the point of contact for:

- Developmental assessment
- Referral for intervention services for a child and/or family
- Care Coordination services for a child with special medical and/or developmental issues

Things to Consider For Your Practice:

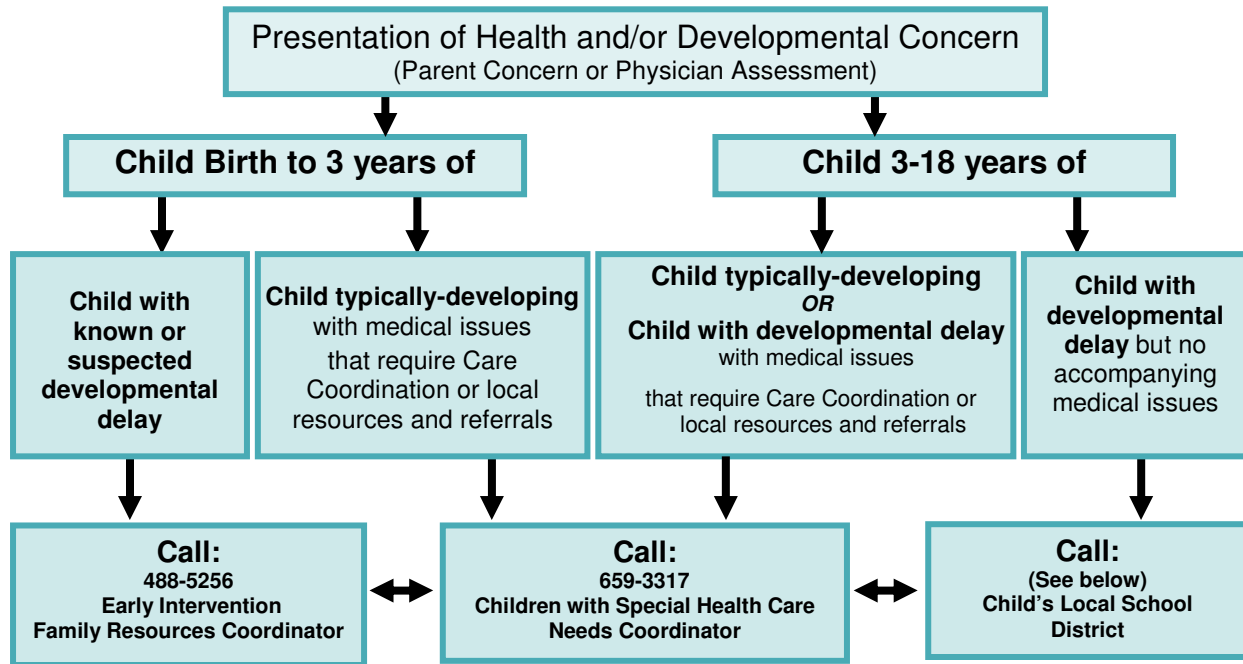
1. Post the Decision Tree in your office or clinic for easy reference
2. Make sure *all primary care providers* in your practice have a copy of the Decision Tree
3. Make sure the *nurses and office staff* in your practice have a copy of the Decision Tree

Information and Resources: Developmental Screening Tools for Office Practices

- WA State Medical Home Website www.medicalhome.org/physicians/dev_surveillance.cfm
- AAP Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Online www.dbpeds.org/screening



Adams County Decision Tree Child with Special Needs Referral Process



WASHINGTON STATE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

WithinReach (Family Health Hotline & ASK Line)	1-800-322-2588, 1-800-833-6388 TTD www.withinreachwa.org
Parent to Parent Support Programs of Washington	(800) 821-5927 www.arcwa.org/parenttoparent.htm
Washington State Fathers Network	425-747-4004 ext. 4286 www.fathersnetwork.org
Washington State Medical Home Website	www.medicalhome.org

Local School District Contact information:

Lind: 677-3481
Othello: 488-4682
Ritzville: 659-0232
Washtucna: 646-3237

Note: Melva Zavala is the FRC for Adams County. Callie Moore is the Children With Special Health Care Needs Coordinator for Adams County. Melva and Callie work very closely together. You may call either number above if you have questions or concerns about children with developmental concerns of any age.