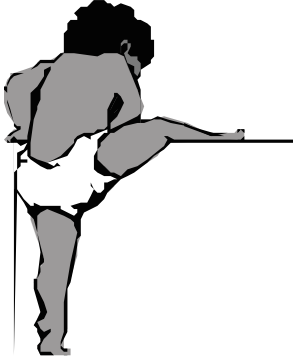


AUGUST, 2007

# ADAMS COUNTY CHILD HEALTH NOTES

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

Distributed by: Adams County Health Department and Adams County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)  
Contributors: Washington State Department of Health and UW – Center on Human Development & Disability



*"Looking back on it, it was hard; but at least our doctor didn't say 'let's just wait and see.' He didn't put us off. After the evaluation, we knew what our son needed. We didn't waste a lot of time just worrying about what to do."*

Parent of a child in early intervention services

## DEVELOPMENTAL SURVEILLANCE IN PRIMARY CARE

Primary care providers for children generally view developmental assessment as an integral part of well child care. Well child exams in the first two years of life are ideal for the detection of problems with a child's development and are covered by most insurance plans, including Medicaid/DSHS. Despite this, only half of the children with developmental disabilities are identified prior to school entry. About 16% of all children have disabilities such as mental retardation, motor disorders, and speech and language disorders. Research has shown that:

- Serial well exams by themselves do not constitute developmental surveillance.
- Identification of developmental delay is improved when explicit developmental screening procedures are used.

How can developmental screening be done under the pressures of managed care? The short answer is:

### KEEP IT SIMPLE AND MAKE IT CONTINUOUS:

- Screening of all children by parent questionnaire at each well child exam.
- Basic screening of motor, speech, and social milestones at each well child exam.
- Refer for additional evaluation of children with known risk factors, when parental concerns are expressed, or for "red flag" findings on screening or physical exam.

Information on developmental monitoring tools including parent questionnaires that can be used in your practice is available on the Medical Home and Leadership Network Website: <http://www.medicalhome.org>

## WHY IDENTIFY EARLY?

- **Young children with disabilities can be accurately identified** Quick and accurate screening tools have been developed for use in primary care. Information including source, accuracy, and time requirements, is available on the AAP Development and Behavior web site (<http://www.dbpeds.org/articles/dbtesting>)
- **Early intervention services are effective in improving child and family function** Children who participate in early intervention programs prior to kindergarten are more likely to achieve goals of independence, functional productivity, community integration, and improved school performance. Families are more likely to cope effectively.
- **Services are available and affordable to families** Adams County services for children from birth to three include screening and referral by PHN and FRC's to available services in and out of county. Services for children over age three include Headstart and school district special education programs.

**In Adams County, children with known or suspected developmental delays may be referred to Adams County Health Department for assistance with access to early intervention services.**

## ADAMS COUNTY RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

➤ **For children under age three:** Contact: Adams County Health Department  
Phone: 659-3317 or 488-2031

➤ **For children age three and older:** Contact: Local school district

District:	Phone	Fax	District:	Phone	Fax
Othello	488-4682	488-4893	Ritzville	659-0232	659-4119
Lind	677-3481	677-3463	Washtucna	646-3237	646-3249

### SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- **Local:** Adams County Health Department 509-659-3317
- **Regional:** Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
  - Health Professional Hotline (800) 293-2462
  - Parent Resource Line (866) 987-2500
  - WithinReach (formerly Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies) 1-800-322-2588, 1-800-833-6388 TTD  
(for a listing of your county's Lead FRC's) [www.withinreachwa.org](http://www.withinreachwa.org)
  - Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program [www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip)
  - Parent to Parent Support Programs of Washington (800) 821-5927
  - Washington State Fathers Network (425) 747-4004 ext. 4286  
[www.fathersnetwork.org](http://www.fathersnetwork.org)
- **National/Internet:**
  - Washington State Medical Home Website [www.medicalhome.org](http://www.medicalhome.org)
  - American Academy of Pediatrics [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)
  - AAP Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics [www.dbpeds.org](http://www.dbpeds.org)
  - American Academy of Family Physicians [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)
  - Family Village (Extensive family resources for CSHCN) [www.familyvillage.wisc.edu](http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu)
  - Family Voices (Links to national and state family support networks) [www.familyvoices.org](http://www.familyvoices.org)

Attention: Adams County Providers: The Adams County Medical Home Team of Dr. Shakti Matta, Melva Zavala, FRC, Ana Alvarez, Parent, and Callie Moore, PHN, have presented Columbia Basin Health Association with the Ages and Stages (ASQ) Developmental Screening Questionnaires for their practice with the honorarium received in the 2006-2007 year. The ASQ was presented to staff at a medical staff meeting on 8-23-07. This screening tool can be used with parent as a questionnaire about the child's development, it will be particularly useful with well child exams and at other times as the provider determines. If you have questions, please call Callie at 659-3317.