

## APPENDIX A

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SELECTION OF GENERAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TOOLS: GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

#### Recommendations for Selection of General Developmental Screening Tools

- *Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ®)* – Brookes Publishing
- *Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS®)* – Ellsworth & Vandermeer Press LLC\*

\*Tool meets criteria but currently not widely used across sectors in Wisconsin.

#### Selection Criteria

The following criteria are recommended when local community programs in Wisconsin select a tool appropriate for cross-sector use for general developmental screening of young children:

- Have good psychometric properties with sensitivity and specificity of at least 70 to 80%.
- Is normed across a wide variety of cultural groups and different populations.
- Is a parent-completed instrument. It promotes parents' understanding of child development and communication with professionals caring for their child.
- Is easily and reliably used in the field by both professionals and parents – and considers affordability and availability of cross sector training.
- Allows for consistent and efficient use of best practice guidelines across organizations, supports referral, and reduces screening duplication. Ideally the tool selected is used by multiple community partners and thereby facilitates communication and timely referral of children with concerning screens to appropriate supports and services.

#### Recommendation Context and Caveats

- Twenty-three developmental screening tools recommended by national organizations were reviewed according to the criteria delineated above. More information about tools reviewed can be found at the following links: <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/screening.pdf> and <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/118/1/405.short?rss=1>.
- The intent of the recommendation is to propose a process that can be uniformly applied, now and in the future, to select developmental screening tools that identify potential delay of general development of children under age six years for use across the early childhood system. None of the tools on this list identify children who exceed developmental benchmarks or determine school readiness, as this was beyond the scope and intent of our charge and work.
- Training is an important component for communities who plan to use a valid, developmental screening tool across sectors. Training to implement screening should employ strategies that cover correct tool administration, scoring, and how to talk to parents of diverse backgrounds.
- Once a reliable developmental screening tool is selected for use, how it is used, and strategies to administer it will impact cultural and linguistic competent practices.
- It is important to screen hard-to-reach populations of children including those residing in homeless shelters or in protective custody.
- Parent completion of these tools can occur with or without assistance.