Early Childhood Screening and Services For All

How can we get this issue on the radar of US politicians?

Colleagues?

General public?

Talk about it!

Talking Points

• New article in *Pediatrics* proposes that every state needs bold actions across health, education, and social service sectors.

• Health, education, and social service leaders must address capacity crisis in system-wide manner to serve children with developmental–behavior needs.

• To serve children with developmental–behavior needs, the US needs:
  o Family-friendly, screening and care coordination entity
  o Comprehensive, tiered, and equitable assessments for at-risk/referred children
  o Universal access to high-quality early learning or preschool programs
  o Continuous Accountability for early detection process 0-5yr, with Kindergarten readiness metric

• High-quality early intervention and learning services are critical for children with developmental–behavioral needs

• Early learning (eg. IDEA Part C) services must be more equitable, efficient, and effective with focus on developmental–behavioral needs of the child.
"Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!" has been promoting universal, broad-band developmental and social-emotional screening in children ages 0 to 5 years across the health care, early childhood education and social service sectors. With the U.S. federal government and American Academy of Pediatrics combining forces to promote periodic developmental-behavioral screening, the next step is for the US to address its capacity crisis for providing high-quality early intervention and learning services. A new article in Pediatrics proposes that every U.S. state needs: 1) a family-friendly, screening and care coordination entity, 2) comprehensive, tiered, and equitable assessments for "at-risk" or referred children, 3) universal access to high-quality early learning or preschool programs, and 4) continuous accountability for the early detection process from birth to 5 years, and this includes an outcome-based metric for kindergarten readiness. Leaders in health, education, and social service sectors must boldly address our nation’s capacity crisis in a system-wide manner. US early learning (especially IDEA Part C) services must become more equitable, efficient, and effective so that the focus is always on the developmental–behavioral needs of the child. For more information developmental–behavioral monitoring and training, visit the Learn the Signs. Act Early. Campaign at http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/hcp.

An electronic version of this article is available at: http://sixbyfifteen.org/category/early-childhood/