

Child Health Notes



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

Distributed by Public Health-Seattle & King County–Children with Special Health Care Needs Program. This newsletter provides physicians, nurse practitioners, primary health care providers, public health centers and community partners with current information regarding identification and management of special health issues for children. Contributing agencies and programs include: 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 King 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

IF UNSURE, REFER.

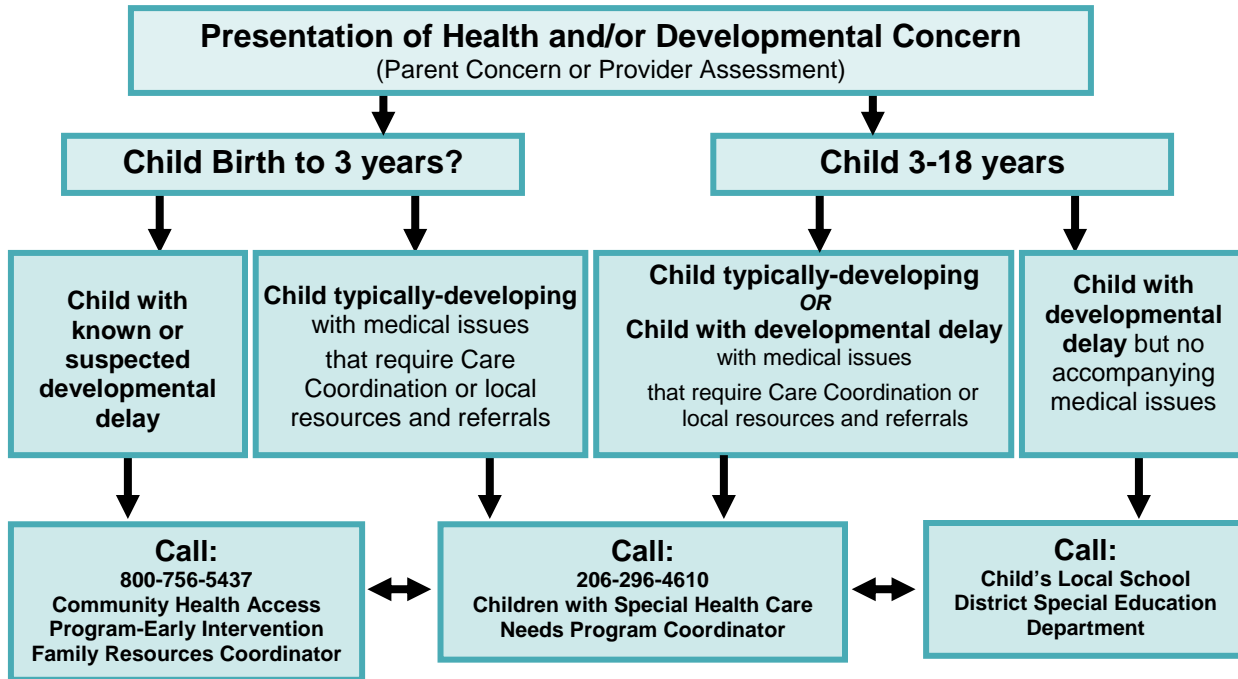
Avoid the "Don't worry, (s)he'll grow out of it" trap!

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



King 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/parent_to_parent.htm

Parent to Parent Support Program King County

206-829-7039

www.arcofkingcounty.org/our-services/parent-to-parent-support-program/parent-to-parent-support-program

Washington State Fathers Network

425-747-4004 ext. 4286

www.fathersnetwork.org

Washington State Medical Home Website

www.medicalhome.org

Children with Special Health Care Needs Program

401 Fifthth Ave, Suite 1000

Seattle, WA 98104-3222

206-296-4610

www.kingcounty.gov/health/cshcn



Public Health 
Seattle & King County

