

Child Health: Developmental Screening Initiatives

Objective 3.1: Increase the proportion of children aged 1 month to kindergarten entry statewide who receive a parent-completed developmental screening by 5% annually through 2025.

Activities During Federal Fiscal Year 2023

Provider and Parent Education/Training: During the November 2022 In-Person BaM/KPCC Training, Title V staff provided an overview of resources and training opportunities that had been incorporated into the Session 7 guidance as outlined below. [CDC Milestones](#) is the primary resource utilized in both Sessions 5 and 7, after learning that the developmental milestone activity cards and screening passports that had been developed had outdated content. All sites were provided samples of the CDC milestones resources and information on where to order these supplies was included in the Session 5 resource bank. The Child Health Consultant position was still vacant at the time of our training, so this was introduced solely by the P/I Consultants.

3.2: Access to health promotion activities and programs

Promote the [1-800-CHILDREN Helpline](#), resource directory, and mobile app downloads to clients. Ensure that MCH services and organization information is listed and updated, as needed. Place the 1-800-CHILDREN logo and link on agency website and publications (e.g., newsletters, emails).

Support and participate in efforts to increase your local school district's [Wellness Policy Guidelines](#) for their before/after school component and/or their family and community component.

Become a member or the lead organization for your county's [Safe Kids Coalition](#).

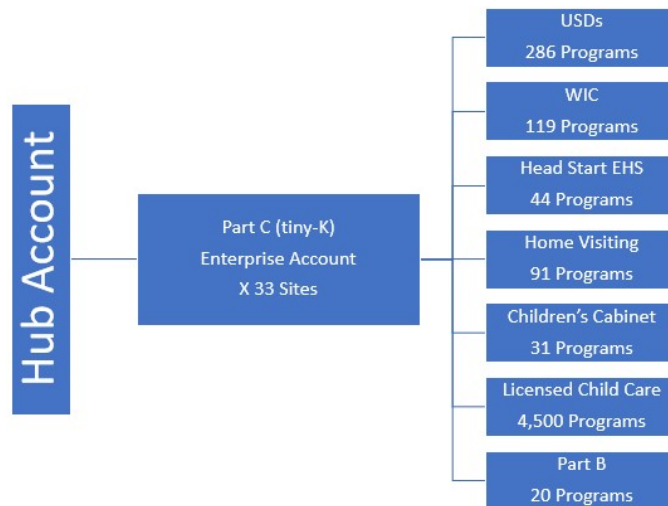
Share [Move Your Way](#) resources with children and their families to promote physical activity across all ages, including children.

Promote healthy relationships between children, families, and technology with resources and training from [Screen Sanity](#).

Coordination and Referrals: Title V continued to encourage MCH agencies to use 1-800-CHILDREN as a resource to support families. Local MCH Notices of Grant Award were disseminated at the beginning of the state fiscal year and included a line that states each agency is responsible for keeping their contact information up to date in 1-800-CHILDREN. Tailored resource documents were disseminated to each local MCH grantee that contained recommendations on how to promote 1-800-CHILDREN to clients.

Utilizing Statewide ASQ Data: Title V, in partnership with other state agencies, continued an agreement with Brookes Publishing to host a statewide ASQ Enterprise for alignment of statewide data. This agreement consolidates multisector development screens into one statewide hub account. Below is an image of the multi-sector structure that is in place.

ASQ Online Network



Over the past year, Title V staff, in partnership with KU-CPPR, KSDE, and 1-800-CHILDREN, have worked to increase awareness of the ASQ screening and provide training opportunities for a variety of partners.

Local MCH Agencies:

The following are examples of how some of the local MCH grantee agencies have made progress toward objective 3.1 during the reporting period.

- Barton County Health Department's (BCHD) goal was to provide more education about the value of developmental screening and establish a new partnership with their Kansas Early Childhood Developmental Services (KECDS) provider (previously known as Part C, Infant Toddler Services, or tiny-K), Sunflower Early Education. They met both goals despite vacancies on the team. According to DAISEY, child development education was provided 73 times in 2022 and increased to 83 times in 2023. Sunflower Early Education became part of the Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS) network. BCHD also coordinated ASQ screening with the Healthy Families program so that families served by the health department and Healthy Families can choose to complete an ASQ at either site. The shared dietician for WICH and MCH also wrote the WIC nutrition services plan to highlight developmental milestones for the calendar year starting in January 2023. Many child clients received services from WIC and MCH lead screening was offered to WIC children at the same time their hemoglobin was checked to reduce the number of times a child had to get poked to have the screenings.
- Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department screened 83% of children receiving home visits for developmental delays. This exceeded their goal of 70%.

Scores that indicated a risk for delay were referred to the local Kansas Early Childhood Developmental Services (KECDS) program. One barrier that was experienced is the length of time families waited before an KECDS could see them. Home visitors offered families assistance in contacting KECDS and the option to attend the KECDS visit with the family. Additionally, Growing Great Kids and developmental milestone education was shared with parents to educate and promote techniques parents can use with their children to strengthen the developmental area of concern.

- Riley County Health Department ensured all child clients received an ASQ screening at appropriate intervals. They recorded 115 ASQ screenings and 719 instances of child development education in DAISEY. They used the ASQ-3, ASQ-SE, and educational materials from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Southeast Kansas Multi-County Health Department's goal was to increase the percentage of appointments with a completed child developmental screening from 58% to 80%. They sent ASQ and Bright Futures paperwork to parents prior to the appointment to reduce the time spent in office. They also sent appointment reminders using text messaging prior to the appointment. Of the appointments scheduled where an ASQ was to be completed, 27 of 36, or 76%, were attended. While the goal of 80% wasn't achieved there was an increase from the baseline.

Plans for Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Development Milestone Promotion: Developmental milestones are things most children (75% or more) can do by a certain age. Examples include skills such as waving “bye-bye” or taking their first step. When a child is unable to achieve age-appropriate milestones evaluation maybe necessary. The Child Health Consultant will continue to promote the use of a variety of Developmental Screening tools and resources for Kansas parents, guardians, and providers to use. Some of the developmental screening tools and resources that will continue to be provided are:

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ): ASQ is a tool parents, guardians, and providers can use to evaluate children's development. The Child Health Consultant will educate the community on ASQ, connect providers and caregivers to training, and assist with promotional events. MCH staff will also connect providers and other agencies to the Statewide ASQ Online Enterprise as well as 1-800-CHILDREN for ASQ screenings.

Vroom: Vroom is a free science-based development activity resource app. Parents, guardians, and providers can use this application for tips and activities to help children reach developmental milestones. Vroom also provides promotional items for organizations and communities. The Child Health Consultant will provide trainings for organizations and providers on how to utilize Vroom and promote the uses of Vroom materials to connect parents and guardians to developmental information.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Milestones: The CDC has developed [developmental milestones checklists](#) and a [mobile app](#) to help parents and

caregivers track a child's development. The Child Health Consultant will continue to promote this resource to parents, caregiver, and to ATL grantee partners.

Early Childhood Systems & Collaboration: In January 2023, the Kansas Governor shared an executive order to establish an Early Childhood Task Force to review and assess the early childhood systems in Kansas. Part of this order called for an independent agency to review all early childhood systems in Kansas and make recommendations for better alignment. The report of the Early Childhood Task Force was released in December 2023 and included the recommendation to streamline the early childhood governance structure by unifying early childhood care and education services into a single state entity—either by consolidating this work into an existing agency or through the development of a new state agency. While this proposal was introduced during the 2024 legislative session, no action was taken. Over the next year, the Child Health Consultant will review the entirety of the task force report and identify ways the recommendations could be implemented within Title V programs. Additionally, through engagement with Title V programs, early childhood providers, and caregivers the Child Health Consultant will work to identify what is working well, but also identify gaps and barriers that need to be addressed to create a seamless system for families. Based on findings from the review, the Title V early childhood programs will work collaboratively to implement the recommendations.