



## Minnesota Interagency Developmental Screening Task Force FAQs

### ***Are you a public program that is engaged in screening of young children?***

Recommended instruments that meet criteria for accuracy and reliability have been identified and are listed on the [recommended instruments](#) web page.

The [Minnesota Interagency Developmental Screening Task Force](#) is a partnership that reviews and recommends developmental and social-emotional screening instruments for use in Minnesota's public screening programs for children ages birth to 5 years. Representation from the Minnesota Departments of Human Services (DHS), Education (MDE), and Health (MDH) allow for statewide coordination of screening efforts and consistent standards for approved instruments. Our vision is for all children in Minnesota to be at their optimal health and development and ready to learn.

### **What is a public screening program?**

A public program could include Child and Teen Checkups, District or Charter Early Childhood Screening, Follow Along Program, Family Home Visiting, Head Start and Early Head Start, or Child Welfare (Child Protection). Look online for more information about [screening programs in Minnesota](#).

### **What is the mission of the Task Force?**

All children in Minnesota birth through age 5 will receive equitable, high quality, family-centered, culturally and linguistically sensitive, routine and periodic *developmental and social-emotional screening* in a coordinated, non-duplicative system that ensures linkage to services and resources that support healthy child development and family well-being.

### **Where is the list of approved developmental screening instruments?**

[All instruments at a glance](#) lists instruments that can be used across ages and programs.

### **Which instruments are normed and translated into other languages?**

This information is listed for each recommended tool in the comparison grids for developmental ([parent report](#) or [observational](#)) instruments or [social-emotional](#) instruments.

### **How does my program choose an instrument?**

Refer to [choosing an instrument: points to consider](#).

### **What criteria does the Task Force use to recommend screening instruments?**

The Task Force recommends tools that meet the [instrument review criteria](#) for Minnesota's public screening programs.

### **What if I am interested in other tools?**

A list of rationale for tools that are *not* currently recommended is posted at the bottom of the [recommended instruments](#) webpage. Contact [health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us](mailto:health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us) for questions or information about other tools.

### **What about trauma or autism?**

The tools selected by the task force are competent in screening for symptoms typical of children experiencing trauma or autism spectrum disorder. For autism screening recommendations, refer to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [recommendations and guidelines](#).

### **What about maternal depression?**

Recommendations for postpartum depression screening are not included in the Task Force scope of work, but more information is available on the Minnesota Department of Health [Perinatal Mental Health – Information for Providers](#) webpage.

### **What if I want to screen older children?**

For information on screening older children, refer to the Child and Teen Checkups [Mental Health Screening Fact Sheet](#).

### **What strategies does the Task Force use to achieve its mission?**

- Ensure statewide alignment of screening instrument recommendations, training, and outreach;
- Review and recommend tools that meet criteria for Minnesota's public screening programs;
- Support the development of culturally and linguistically appropriate tools and processes to ensure an equitable and accurate screening system;
- Promote and assure access to training and consultation for screening programs.
- Serve as an advisory group to screening and referral related projects and initiatives;
- Identify and support policy changes to increase effectiveness and decrease gaps in Minnesota's early childhood system of screening, referral and linkage to services.
- Measure progress toward statewide screening and coordination.

### **Who may I contact if I have questions about the tools?**

For questions, more information, or to obtain this information in a different format, call the Minnesota Department of Health Maternal Child Health Section at 651-201-3760 or email [health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us](mailto:health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us).

