

PRACTICAL PEARL: Developmental Delay

INTRODUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification of developmental delays or disabilities is important. • Timely identification leads to appropriate referrals for intervention, consideration of the etiologic diagnosis, as well as support and anticipatory guidance. <p>Reference: Identifying Infants and Young Children With Developmental Disorders in the Medical Home: An Algorithm for Developmental Surveillance and Screening https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/118/1/405</p>
INITIAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT BY PRIMARY CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing developmental surveillance and standardized developmental screening including the modified checklist for autism and toddlers at 18 months and two years. • Sharing pertinent history and or documentation with the Developmental Clinic
WHEN TO REFER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child’s MCHAT-R shows concern, refer if 2 or more items are positive. • Indications for further evaluation include poor joint attention, lack of showing gestures, and repetitive movements or rigid play. • Skill regression at any age. • Significant delay in developmental milestones, such as no two word phrases by 2 years or not walking at 18 months. • High lead levels. • Genetic or other conditions likely to result in significant delay. • Determine the level of delay or presence of specific conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, and assist in referral for services.
HOW TO REFER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (413) 794-KIDS
WHAT TO EXPECT FROM BAYSTATE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL VISIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality developmental assessment and reporting. • Appropriate testing will be completed after an initial clinical visit. Testing may not be necessary for all children referred. • Recommendations for intervention or other services • Recommendations for etiologic evaluations (Genetic and /or Neurology) when significant delays are found. • Ongoing follow up of developmental and behavioral concerns in collaboration with the Medical Home.