A Healthy Beginning for Young California Kids: Universal Developmental & Behavioral Screenings

Identifying concerns and intervening early boosts child success and reduces health and education system costs

Nearly 85% of brain development happens in the first three years of life

Infants and toddlers rapidly grow and gain skills in many areas simultaneously:
- gross & fine motor
- cognitive & problem-solving
- social & emotional
- speech & language

Pediatricians recommend all children be screened routinely between birth and age three

Fewer than 1 in 3 young children in California receive timely developmental screenings

1 in 4 CA kids under age 6 are at moderate- or high-risk for developmental, behavioral, or social delays, but CA ranks 30th in the nation on the rate of infant & toddler developmental screenings

2 in 5 CA parents with children under age 6 report having concerns about their child’s physical, behavioral, or social development

Routine screenings of children’s development during a health care visit help guide referrals to the services children need, resulting in cost-effective care and better outcomes for kids

For sources see childrennow.org/dev-info-sources