

## Clinical Recommendations Related to Addressing Social-Emotional Health in Young Child

**Background:** Every year, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Bright Futures Guidelines set out guidance for preventive care screening and health supervision visits based on research evidence and expert consensus. The Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care, also known as the "Periodicity Schedule," is a schedule of screenings and assessments recommended at each well-child visit from infancy through adolescence. Specific to children birth-to-five and their developmental/social/behavioral/mental health, here are the screening recommendations:

AGE <sup>1</sup>	INFANCY								EARLY CHILDHOOD							
	Prenatal <sup>2</sup>	Newborn <sup>3</sup>	3-5 d <sup>4</sup>	By 1 mo	2 mo	4 mo	6 mo	9 mo	12 mo	15 mo	18 mo	24 mo	30 mo	3 y	4 y	5 y
<b>DEVELOPMENTAL/SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH</b>																
Maternal Depression Screening <sup>11</sup>				•	•	•	•									
Developmental Screening <sup>12</sup>								•			•		•			
Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening <sup>13</sup>											•	•				
Developmental Surveillance		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Behavioral/Social/Emotional Screening <sup>14</sup>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

**EPSDT** (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under 21 enrolled in Medicaid and is clinically aligned with the Bright Futures screening periodicity and evidence-based diagnosis and treatment.

- **Early:** Assessing and identifying problems early
- **Periodic:** Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
- **Screening:** Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems
  - Anchored to **American Academy of Pediatrics & Bright Futures™ Periodicity Schedule**
- **Diagnostic:** Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified, and
- **Treatment:** Control, correct or reduce health problems found.

**Population-Based Screenings** that can help identify children with a potential need for supports to address social-emotional development:

1. Maternal depression screening
2. Developmental screening
3. Autism Spectrum disorder screening
4. Behavioral/Social/Emotional Screening
  - Since 2022, AAP /Bright Futures has recommended screening for behavioral and social-emotional problems in family-centered way, routinely at every well visit in the first five years of life

**Issue-Focused Interventions** are the recommended “Treatment” after identifying young children with social emotional delays (EPSDT)

- These issue-focused interventions are aligned with clinically-recommended, evidence-based services and can be provided by:
  - ✓ Specialty behavioral health clinicians
  - ✓ Within primary care, by integrated behavioral health clinicians and others with expertise
  - ✓ By community-based providers using evidence-based approaches