

Primary care plays an important role in identifying young children with potential social-emotional or behavioral delays. Once identified, these children might benefit from social-emotional health supports in primary care, either from Primary Care Providers (with parent education, engagement in integrated behavioral health referral, and/or external referral) or from Integrated Behavioral Health Clinicians (with secondary assessments, brief interventions, and/or external referral).

Flags for potential social-emotional delays in young children could come from:

1. Clinical or parental observation
2. Family context
3. Screening tools



| Clinical or parental observation |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Concerns such as oppositional, aggressive, overactive or shy/anxious behaviors ➤ Significant sleep, feeding, self-soothing, adjusting to new situations, or irritability concerns ➤ Parental frustration |
| Family Context |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exposure to Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) in Family Environment ➤ Significant psychosocial stressors or social complexity ➤ Knowledge of family factors impacting attachment or psychosocial development |
| Screening Tools |
| <p>Examples of Screening Tools Used in Primary Care that Could Identify Potential Need for Additional Social-Emotional Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maternal Depression Screening: Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS). Indicators of potential need for SE support include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Positive screen for maternal depression ○ Especially if associated with delayed development, issues with regulation, poor feeding or sleep in child ➤ Developmental Screening: Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). Indicators of potential SE delay include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal Social AND Problem-Solving Domains below cut-off, OR ○ Personal Social OR Problem Solving below cut-off AND any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerns such as oppositional, aggressive, overactive or shy/anxious behaviors ▪ Significant sleep, feeding, self-soothing, adjusting to new situations, or irritability concerns ▪ Exposure to ACEs, social complexity, family factors impacting development ➤ Autism Screening: Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern for autism on screening indicates need for a developmental pediatrics evaluation, but social-emotional support in primary care may help when there are associated behavioral challenges or concerns impacting the family. |
| <p>Example of Specific Social-Emotional Health Screening Aligned with Bright Futures Recommendations for Behavioral/Social/Emotional Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Baby or Preschool Pediatric Symptom Checklist (BPSC/PPSC) |