Title: Screening for Children Referred to the Early Intervention Program

Policy: The Dauphin County Early Intervention Program will screen children referred for Early Intervention Services, as appropriate, at the first meeting with a child and family to determine whether an infant or toddler referred to the Dauphin County Early Intervention Program is likely to have a developmental delay and be in need of a full multidisciplinary developmental evaluation.

Definitions:

Screening: An assessment using a developmental questionnaire tool that is easily administered quickly scored and involves the parent/caregiver. This tool, along with any other relevant information offered by the family, is used to determine if a child is meeting age-appropriate developmental milestones or is likely to have a developmental delay.

Multidisciplinary Evaluation: Procedures used by two or more disciplines of qualified professionals to determine a child’s eligibility for early intervention services.

Procedure:

1. Infants or toddlers who have been referred and had a screening conducted by a pediatrician/physician or other healthcare provider; Dauphin County Children Youth or other social service agency; or an Early Care and Education Program will not have any additional screening done by the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler Early Intervention (EI) Program.

2. Screenings will not be done for children who already have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that is likely to result in a developmental delay.
3. Prior to conducting a screening for an infant/toddler referred for EI services, the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler EI Program will provide the parent written notice of its intent to screen the child and obtain parental consent for the screening using the Parent’s Rights Agreement.

4. The Dauphin County Infant/Toddler EI Program will inform the parent of their right to request an evaluation at any time during the screening process.

5. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire and/or the Ages and Stages- Social Emotional Questionnaire are the recommended screening tools to be utilized by the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler EI Program. A different tool may be used if the needs of the infant/toddler indicate a different tool should be used. The Service Coordinator shall document the reason why a different tool was used in the service coordination notes.

6. The screening tools used will be administered only by those personnel who have been trained in the administration of the screening tools.

7. Parents must be notified in writing of the results of the screening and must then consent to one of the following options: closing the child’s file with the Early Intervention Program, moving forward to a full evaluation, or participating in tracking services for children who are considered at-risk under Chapter 4226.5, Early Intervention Services.

8. If the screening and any other available information presented about the child indicates that the infant/toddler is not meeting age - appropriate developmental milestones, the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler EI Program shall notify the parent in writing of the results of the screening and the need for an evaluation and assessment of the infant or toddler using the Parent’s Rights Agreement.

9. If the screening and any other available information presented about the child indicates that the infant/toddler is meeting age - appropriate developmental milestones, the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler EI Program shall notify the parents in writing of that determination and provide information on their right to request an evaluation using the Parent’s Rights Agreement. The Dauphin County Infant/Toddler Program will also provide information on other community supports and services that may be available to the infant/toddler and family, as appropriate, and provide contact information for the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler and Preschool Programs if the family should have concerns about their child’s development in the future.

10. An infant/toddler who has been referred to the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler EI Program and is identified as a child at-risk under Chapter 4226.5, but the screening and any other available information presented about the child indicates that the infant/toddler is meeting age - appropriate developmental milestones, the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler EI Program will inform the parent the infant/toddler is eligible for tracking services.
11. If the parent of an infant or toddler requests and consents to an evaluation at any time during the screening process, an evaluation of the infant or toddler must be conducted, even if the Dauphin County Infant/Toddler EI program, through the information gathered through the screening process, believes that the child is meeting developmental milestones and is not suspected of having a developmental delay.

12. The screening process will not delay the timeline requirements for evaluation, assessment, initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting or service delivery. The timeline requirement of 45 days from referral to initial IFSP meeting still applies.