

**For Immediate Release
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New Report Examines Early Care & Education Provider and Parent Perspectives in Identifying and Helping Children with Developmental or Behavioral Concerns

Farmington, CT – The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) released a new IMPACT, [*Developmental Screening and Surveillance in Early Care and Education Settings: Family and Provider Perspectives*](#). The report analyzes screening and surveillance practices in early care and education settings across Connecticut and provides a comprehensive review of the experiences of child care providers and the families they serve. The IMPACT includes:

- A review of state and federal screening and surveillance initiatives
- Findings from Connecticut child care provider and parent surveys related to screening activities, data handling and connection to services
- Recommendations for Connecticut

“Children are more likely to succeed throughout school and life when concerns about their development and behavior are addressed early,” said Judith Meyers, President and CEO of CHDI and the Children’s Fund of Connecticut. “Knowing this, more and more child care centers and pre-schools have incorporated a range of developmental and behavioral surveillance and screening activities into their programs. However, practices vary widely and providers need more support to effectively address children’s developmental and behavioral needs in collaboration with parents.”

Key findings from the survey of providers showed that screening activities, data handling and the ability to connect families to services vary across the state.

- Most large centers use formal screening tools and have protocols in place to coordinate follow-up when concerns are identified
- Smaller sites need support to monitor children’s development and connect children for whom there are concerns to available services
- Providers are challenged in using electronic data systems for tracking and storing results

Key findings from the survey of parents found they were involved in and supportive of screening for their children.

- 90% of parents whose children received screening said they were involved in the process
- 16% of parents surveyed said they had children who had been identified as having developmental delays
- More than 90% of parents with children identified as having a delay said the service provider they were referred to met the child’s needs and they were satisfied with these services.

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CHDI prepared the report for the Office of Early Childhood and Connecticut United Way as part of Connecticut's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant to inform the development of a comprehensive statewide plan to ensure children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn. In 2014, Connecticut received three years of ECCS Planning funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop an action plan with input from providers and parents that ensures early detection of children with and at risk for developmental delays and their connection to follow up services. The final plan will be completed in 2017.

The *Developmental Screening and Surveillance in Early Care and Education Settings* report serves as a follow up to a 2013 CHDI IMPACT report: "[The Earlier the Better: Developmental Screening for Connecticut's Young Children](#)", which summarized research and best practices for developmental screening and reviewed the use of available screening tools across Connecticut.

Download CHDI's "*Developmental Surveillance and Screening in Early Care and Education: Family and Provider Perspectives*" and "*The Earlier the Better: Developmental Screening for Connecticut's Young Children*" at www.chdi.org. Learn more about CHDI's work on early childhood screening at <http://www.chdi.org/our-work/early-childhood/early-childhood-health/screening/>. For additional information, contact Cindy Langer: [langer@uchc.edu](mailto: langer@uchc.edu) 860-679-1538.

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