How to Talk With Parents When You Have a Concern About Their Child’s Development

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2. Quick Overview of Early Childhood CARES
3. Quick Review of Referral Process
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WE’VE MOVED!
Early Childhood CARES
1500 W 12th Ave
Eugene OR 97402
Open House
Thursday October 19th 4:00-5:30

Which Heather?

• 541-510-1844
• Bilingual EI/ECSE Evaluator
• Contact me with questions about an evaluation I am doing (Spanish-speaking or bilingual children)

• 541-346-0748
• Referral Coordinator
• Contact me with any questions about referrals!

Video about Early Childhood CARES
It’s on our website!
earlychildhoodcares.uoregon.edu

Early Childhood CARES
Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education in Lane County
**What is Early Childhood CARES?**

- Provides early intervention and early childhood special education services for Lane County
  - Early Intervention (EI): birth to 3 years
  - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE): 3 years to kindergarten
- Serve over 1,400 children from birth through 5 years each year
- Services are free to qualified families; no insurance required

**What do Services Focus on?**

Services are based on goals identified in the child’s Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and determined by child’s educational team.

**Where are Services Provided?**

Services are provided:
- in home
- parent-toddler classes
- community preschools
- specialized preschool classrooms

Services are provided in the least restrictive environment and as close to home as possible.

**Who Provides the Services?**

- Early Interventionists
- Early Childhood Special Educators
- Speech Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Autism/Behavior Consultants
- Vision and Hearing Specialists

**First Step: Referral**

**Who Can Refer?**
- Parents
- Physicians
- Public Health Nurses
- Preschool Teachers
- Childcare Providers

*Get Consent from Parents*

**How does a preschool teacher refer?**
- Follow Head Start’s referral process

**Second Step: Developmental Screening**

- Purpose of screening is to determine need for further evaluation
- Information obtained through parent interview and various screening tools including the Ages & Stages Questionnaire
- Skill areas screened: speech and language, motor skills, problem solving, self-care and social emotional skills
- Health, hearing and vision screening
Third Step: Educational Evaluation & Eligibility

- Evaluations are conducted in all areas of development for children under 3 years and in areas of suspected delay for children 3- to 5-years old.

- If a child is eligible for our services, an educational plan, called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), is developed.

- The IFSP specifies a child’s goals and the services that will be provided to address those goals.

Speaking with Families about Concerns

- You know a lot about the children you see on a daily basis.

- There may be times when you have a concern about a child’s development.

- Before meeting with parents to discuss your concerns, get prepared.

Prepare for the Conversation

- Know typical development for child’s age
  - See handout on developmental milestones
  - ASQ is a great resource

- Children develop at their own pace
  - OK to not meet every milestone
  - Missing many milestones or if you have concerns = consider referral

Know Typical Development

- Observer the Child
  - About 10 minutes at a few different times
  - ex. free play, snack, circle, etc.

- Write down your observations
  - what child does
  - what child says
  - how child communicates (points, grabs, etc.)

  Johnny stacked two blocks then went to the rug and started playing with trucks. A peer approached with a big truck and Johnny grabbed it from him then pushed it back and forth on the rug for 1 minute.
Meet With Parents

• If your observations confirm your concerns...

• Make a time to meet with the parents when you can talk for 15-20 minutes without interruptions.

• Parents, hearing that someone has a concern about their child’s development, need to be treated with sensitivity and support.

Choose Your Words Carefully

• You have not discovered a delay

• You are sharing observations and concerns with parents

• Do not alarm the parents needlessly. Avoid using labels like “hyperactive,” etc.

Stick to the Facts

Rather than saying….

• “Johnny doesn’t hear well.”

• “Johnny has a communication problem.”

• “Juana needs physical therapy.”

Try something like….

• “I’ve noticed when I tell Johnny to do something, he doesn’t always respond.”

• “It is difficult for me to understand Johnny when he talks.”

• “When Juana….

Be Observational, Not Subjective

• Talk about the behavior, not what you think the behavior means.

• Don’t say, “Julio is unable to control himself.”

• Instead say, “Julio needs added supervision to help him remain on task.”

• Avoid words like “always” or “never.”

Keep Your Options Open and Positive

• Don’t say, “I want to find out if Jocelyn has a communication problem or not.”

• Instead say, “A developmental evaluation would help us learn about Jocelyn communication skills.”

• Approach the referral as a way to get more information so that you can teach the child more effectively.

• Be a support person and listener.

Elicit Parents’ Opinions and Observations

• Ask if the parents have seen similar behaviors at home.

• Often children exhibit different behaviors or skills at home and in different environments.
Know Your Resources Before You Meet

• Have the referral information ready so that parents can take the next step

• It’s their choice to do so, not yours

For More Information

• Contact:
  Early Childhood CARES
  University of Oregon
  1500 W 12th Avenue
  Eugene OR 97402
  541-346-2578
  1-800-925-8694

• Website:
  http://earlychildhoodcares.uoregon.edu

• “Like” us on Facebook:
  www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodcares

Helpful Resources (passed out today)

• Flyer: Early Childhood CARES informational flyer with Developmental Milestones (English and Spanish)

• Handout: Quick Facts About Early Childhood CARES

• Handout: How to Talk With Parents When You Have a Concern About Their Child's Development

Other Helpful Resources

• Website: earlychildhoodcares.uoregon.edu

• Services
• Events/Trainings
• Parent Resources
• Instructional Videos
• Contact Us with fillable referral request form
• Information in Spanish

• Facebook page: facebook.com/earlychildhoodcares