

A Healthy Beginning for Young California Kids: Universal Developmental & Behavioral Screenings

Identifying concerns and intervening early
**boosts child success and reduces health
and education system costs**



Nearly
85%
of brain development
happens in the first
three years of life

Infants and toddlers rapidly grow and gain skills
in many areas simultaneously:



gross & fine
motor



cognitive &
problem-solving



social &
emotional



speech &
language

Pediatricians recommend all children
be screened routinely between
birth and age three



Fewer than **1 in 3**
young children in
California receive timely
developmental screenings



1 in 4 CA
kids

under age 6 are at
moderate- or high-risk
for developmental,
behavioral, or social
delays, but



CA ranks **30th**

in the nation on the rate
of infant & toddler
developmental
screenings

California

can do better!

2 in 5 CA
parents

with children under
age 6 report having
concerns about their
child's physical,
behavioral, or social
development



Routine screenings of children's
development during a health care visit
help guide referrals to the services
children need, resulting in
cost-effective care and
better outcomes
for kids

