

## To Keep or Not to Keep?

Read the vignette. Then discuss what screening practices should be continued and what practices should be modified.

1. During the first day of screening, two screeners discuss the need to hold exit conferences with parents after developmental screening. One said, "We like to hold conferences with parents so they know how well the student tested. If they don't stop at our table here by the door before they leave, we can mail them a 'results letter'." The other replies, "We work really hard with these children. Some families don't really care about the screening; they just want to get the kids into a preschool."

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What should be modified?

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2. During a developmental screening exit interview, a family and the screening coordinator discussed that a follow-up evaluation would be beneficial to gather more information about their child's language development. The coordinator said, "I know we have thoroughly talked about your child, but the director says we have to fill out some special forms to get it all in writing." After the visits, she told a coworker, "I'm glad I'm through with those permission forms --- they sure took my attention away from the families."

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3. An adult volunteer at the Screening Fair welcomed an acquaintance and her child into the main registration area. "We're so happy you could come. Let me tell you what Juanita is going to be doing here today." For ten minutes, the volunteer enthusiastically described the screening "games" and the great teachers from the Intermediate School District that conduct the screening. She had the mother sign a release form and thanked her, as Juanita was called to begin the screening. As the volunteer turned to greet the next family that came in, she proudly thought, "I told her everything she needed to know."

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4. Sarah's mother appeared nervous as she signed the release form for the developmental screening. The screening coordinator answered many questions and offered to sit with her as they talked about Sarah and completed the Parent Questionnaire. Screening results revealed a potential delay in two areas. At the exit interview, Sarah's mother declined the opportunity for a follow-up evaluation saying that she would bring Sarah back next year when she was a year older.

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5. Maria's assignment at developmental screening was to sit with parents and review the parent questionnaire. She was pleased that an interpreter was there when she spoke with Hakim's parents; they needed help with the English form, too. "I'm glad that you came today to find out how Hakim is progressing compared to the other kids....and his next teacher needs to know about the things he has difficulty doing so she can plan appropriate curriculum." Hakim's parents looked dismayed as Maria continued, "but don't worry – we'll let you know what you can do at home to make sure he's ready for preschool next fall."

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