

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

May 4, 2009

What's Inside:Child
Development
Tools for staff

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS,
AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR
CHILDREN'S DIVISION

SUBJECT: CHILD DEVELOPMENT WHEELS

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Children's Division (CD) staff of the Child Development Wheel which was created as a tool in response to a need for child development information. The Child Development Wheel is intended for Children's Division staff to use as a reference tool when working with children ages birth through six years and their families.

The Child Development Wheel is an effective tool to help parents know what milestones to expect, encourage parents to interact with their children with age appropriate activities, and know where to turn if they do have questions in regard to their child's development.

The Children's Division, in partnership with ParentLink, designed the Child Development Wheel to create an awareness of early childhood development and the impact it can have on improving parenting skills while decreasing the incidence of child abuse/neglect.

Each Children's Division County Office will receive a supply of wheels for staff who work with families and to provide to families with children ages 0-6. They will be delivered to the base county of each circuit and it will be the responsibility of the circuit manager to distribute to each county within the circuit.

To use the wheel, line up the top window on the outer wheel with the age of the child you are working with. The information in the top window will provide milestones the child should be reaching for his or her age. The window directly below will provide parents and caregivers with suggestions on things they can do with their child to stimulate

development. All children develop at different stages. Please encourage parents to contact their physician if there are any concerns regarding their child's development.

On the front outer wheel there are pictures of babies using American Sign Language. Often times toddlers do not have the words for what they are thinking or feeling and sign language can help ease frustration and enhance communication. Signing has also been linked with promoting children's intellectual development and stimulating the parent-child bond.

The Child Development Wheel covers developmental milestones of children, suggestions on things that parents and caregivers can do with their children to stimulate development, and includes a variety of Missouri services for families in addition to topics the ParentLink WarmLine can help answer. That number is 800-552-8522.

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| NECESSARY ACTION | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: | |
| PDS CONTACT Andrea Littleton 573-751-4031 Andrea.A.Littleton@dss.mo.gov | PROGRAM MANAGER Cindy Reese 573-751-6793 Cindy.A.Reese@dss.mo.gov |
| CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS | |
| N/A | |
| FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS | |
| N/A | |
| REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES | |
| N/A | |
| RELATED STATUTE | |
| N/A | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE RULE | |
| N/A | |
| COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS | |
| N/A | |

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)

Well Being 1, [Item 17](#) , Needs and Services of Child, Parents and Foster Parents

Well Being 2, [Item 21](#) , Educational Needs of the Child

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Parental Resilience

Social Connections

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Social and Emotional Competence of Children:

FACES REQUIREMENTS

N/A