

Early Identification in York Region

Red Flags

A Quick Reference Guide for Early Years Professionals

What is Red Flags?

- A Quick Reference Guide containing detailed health and child development information
- Assists in the early identification of young children who may be at risk of not meeting health and/or developmental milestones
- Assists in determining when and where to refer for additional advice, formal assessment and/or treatment services in York Region.
- Can be used in conjunction with a validated screening tool such as the Nipissing District Developmental Screens

Who developed Red Flags?

- The York Region Early Identification Community Planning Network - a collaborative inter-agency and inter-disciplinary group of stakeholders representing agencies that support healthy child development for children from birth to six years of age
- Adapted from a document developed by the Simcoe County Early Intervention Council in March 2003, titled *Red Flags - Let's Grow With Your Child*

What's in Red Flags?

- Health and child development information organized by domains describing expected age outcomes and/or problems signs for children from birth to six years of age

- Includes areas that may impact child health, and growth and development due to the dynamics of the parent-child interaction (e.g. postpartum depression, abuse)
- Tips for talking to parents about sensitive issues
- "Where To Go For Help" information included with each domain
- Detailed description of community services

Child Health and Developmental Domains:

Speech and Language	Sensory	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	Autism
Feeding and Swallowing	Attachment	Dental	Psychology
Hearing	Social/Emotional	Postpartum Mood Disorder	Learning Disabilities
Vision	Family/Environmental Stressors	Nutrition	Mild Traumatic Brain Injury
Fine Motor	Abuse - neglect, physical, sexual emotional	Literacy	
Gross Motor	Witnessing Violence	Behaviour	

How is Red Flags being promoted in our community?

- ✓ Posted on the Regional Municipality of York web site www.york.ca/redflags
- ✓ Developed and piloted a training program, drawing from the expertise of the multi-disciplinary Network



- ✓ Distributed to teachers, child care professionals, public health nurses, dietitians, early interventionists, child care providers, early learning specialists, social workers, dental hygienists, psychologists, doctors, pediatricians and various agencies on request
- ✓ Featured in *Doc Talks*, a publication of York Region Health Services

How will Red Flags be evaluated?

- Evaluation form included in the Guide
- Evaluation forms completed at training sessions and presentations

How has Red Flags been received?

- Feedback has been very positive
- A lot of interest has been generated about early identification in York Region
- Other communities have expressed interest in adapting Red Flags for their use

QUOTES:

"Red Flags has really helped me in my practice with young children"

"I love the contact section at the back of the Guide that lists and describes our community services"