

WHAT IS

FAMILY-ENGAGED DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING?

Family-engaged developmental monitoring (FEDM) is an intentional partnership of families and providers combining their knowledge to better understand a child’s developmental path, including celebrating progress and identifying opportunities for support and education. From birth, and on a regular and ongoing basis, providers engage families in conversations around their child’s developmental progress, well-being, and factors that impact it, such as the social drivers of health.

THREE ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES

1. Families are regarded as the expert on their child’s development
2. Information is gathered to inform a holistic approach to the child’s development
3. Developmental progress and needs are discussed over time

BENEFITS OF FAMILY-ENGAGED DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING

FAMILY WELL-BEING	FAMILY VOICE	ADVANCING EQUITY
<p>FEDM can lead to positive outcomes for all young children, especially those who experience environmental risk factors and delays and disorders. When FEDM is practiced in complement to systematized processes such as screening, referral, and linkage, families are supported over time and empowered to observe and identify concerns related to their children’s development and then advocate on behalf of their priorities, values, goals, and needs.</p>	<p>FEDM honors the importance of the family’s values and perspective in decision-making, goal-setting, and service delivery. Embedding family voice within a comprehensive and integrative process focusing on early identification can improve child and family well-being. Centering family voice and experience is an evolution away from focusing solely on the identification of delays and disorders, and towards a more holistic approach that prioritizes promoting positive developmental outcomes.</p>	<p>A focus on FEDM can help re-center power in the hands of families and is a focused strategy to support historically underserved or marginalized families. Families are centered in the prioritization, decision-making, and service selection for their children, which promotes inclusivity. Systems practicing FEDM create strategic linkages between family goals, concerns, and needs and trusted community-based supports.</p>

THE PROVIDER PERSPECTIVE

Providers (who serve and interact with young children: medical, education, social service, community-based, faith-based) engaging in FEDM foster meaningful relationships with families they serve and learn more about the child’s development than what they might be able to glean through service interaction and screening. Providers actively listen and engage in conversations that prioritize what is going well in the child’s development, as well as family priorities and concerns.