



## Pathways to School Readiness: Improving Developmental Screening: One Clinic at a Time

### Background

Docs for Tots is a non-profit, non-partisan organization led by pediatricians with a mission of bringing together children's doctors and communities to promote practices, policies and investments in children from prenatal to five that foster children's healthy development and future success.

### Why is developmental screening important?

Twenty percent of children have developmental disorders or delays. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) clearly recommends developmental screening at 9 months, 18 months and 30 months and whenever a concern is raised for all children, as well as surveillance of child development at every well child visit. Only 20-30% of children with developmental disorders are identified before entering school, which means too many kids are not entering school ready to succeed. New York is lagging behind other states in developmental screening- the state ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 51 states in the most recent Commonwealth Fund analysis on appropriated standardized developmental screening for young children during well child visits. Fewer than twelve percent of New York children are receiving necessary screenings.<sup>1</sup>

Implementing the AAP recommendations across Nassau County can improve school readiness by identifying needs and providing necessary services at the earliest, most effective times. It can also save significant costs by preventing later intervention and remediation.

### How is Docs for Tots helping to improve Development Screening in Nassau County?

- Supporting your Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) efforts through aligning early screening and referral practices with core NCQA and NYS requirements
- Providing Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for your efforts
- Linking you to community resources to support your youngest patients
- Providing a learning community to share successes, challenges and opportunities

1- (<http://datacenter.commonwealthfund.org/scorecard/child/34/new-york/>)