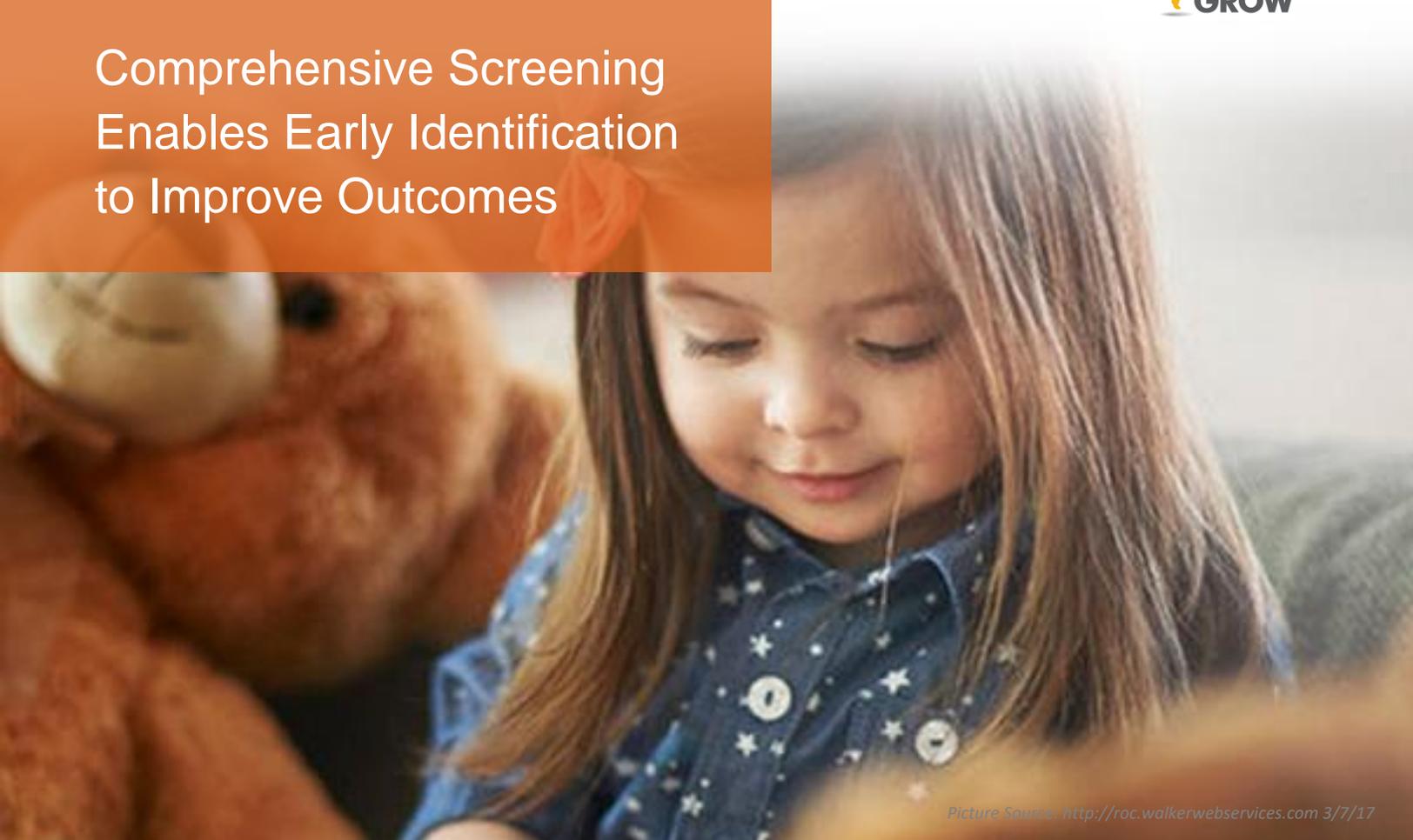


Comprehensive Screening Enables Early Identification to Improve Outcomes



Picture Source: <http://roc.walkerwebservices.com> 3/7/17

CASE STUDY: Screening & Referral to Improve Outcomes

GROW-Rochester is an initiative that integrates comprehensive screenings for three-year-olds to identify needs in hearing, vision, dental health, language and speech, cognitive and social-emotional development with case/service management and referral.

“Having all the data, results from all the various screenings, in one place makes a tremendous difference.”

Kim Avery
Early Care and Education Specialist
Children’s Institute



Executive Summary

Screening at the age of 3 provides the opportunity for early identification of needs so parents and providers can intervene and put children on their best path as soon as possible - but just screening is often not enough. Community surveys can show, for example, what percentage of children entering Pre-K programs are not on target in terms of their development. This type of screening allows for early identification of challenges, as well as successes, but what happens next? Tracking the child past just the screening, through their referral and ensuring that needed services are provided is critical to improving outcomes.

Challenges

It's important for communities to monitor if referred services are received by a child in need. From the COMET database daily activities are monitored, individual screening results can be reviewed and progress of the case management record is tracked. Both individual and community level reports can be generated. The COMET System's case management and assessment modules together allow for the data related to the full process – from screening, to identification, to referral and follow-up – to be in one database.

In Rochester NY, an action plan was developed in 2014 to perform a complete screening of three year olds. The objectives of this initiative are to identify needs early and refer those children for proper professional care and intervention. Monitoring of the referred population will be continuous throughout the referral process, up to the time professional services are provided. The screening domains include: Vision; Hearing; Dental; Social-Emotional Health; Speech & Language and Cognitive Development.

"We worked with the COMET team to develop custom reports, such as a list of all children and their screening results by teacher."

How COMET Helped

Rochester's three year olds are identified and directed to a screening program site being held at a variety of community based settings such as community-based childcare providers, family-based childcare sites and home visitation. A parent/guardian completes a registration and consent form

and a child/family record is created in the COMET database, which includes the registration information and consent record. For each child, a screening assessment is opened to track each of the domains. Results are recorded in COMET where each has a defined action plan:

- Pass: a follow-up screening date is scheduled
- Border Line: a re-screening is scheduled
- Fail: a "case management" record is created, parents are notified of the evaluation results and are provided an appropriate list of professional resources to schedule a follow up

Case management activities are handled by case managers, screening professionals and/or child professionals. The parent(s) are informed of all evaluation results and are given support through the referral. The case is followed until the referred services have been acted upon, at which point the case is marked as completed/closed in the COMET database. Hearing, vision and dental needs are referred to the appropriate medical professionals. Developmental, speech and language and social-emotional needs are referred to the County Health Department or to the school district's Special Education Services Office for full evaluations.

Results and Future Plans

Comprehensive screening of young children allows for early identification of strengths and needs, both for the individual children and the overall community. However, identification isn't enough. For those with potential needs the job is not complete until there is a referral for further assessment. to services and follow-up to ensure that services were obtained These are critical steps to putting children on a path to success. COMET is setup to help users screen, identify, report, refer and monitor children of all ages. Screening domains may include, but are not limited to: vision, hearing, dental, speech & language, cognitive functioning, motor skills and social-emotional health.

"The data entry piece continues to go well. We were able to customize the data input for each screening type, which makes the process faster and easier for the providers."

Questions? Call 585-673-3200

Contact Us

Personal Walk-Thru

