

Pregnancy and Postpartum Education and Services Checklist Procedure

Purpose

This checklist helps Home Visitors document and track required perinatal topics and services offered to families during the pregnancy/postpartum period.

Guidance

Pregnancy and the newborn periods are recognized as opportune times to have a positive and lasting impact on the health and development of very young children. Early Head Start provides supportive and flexible perinatal services that complement community resources, respond to the needs of the family, and build on family strengths and resources. This unique opportunity to support children and their families from the earliest possible point through the first years of life provides the greatest potential for the healthy growth and development of children.

Educational topics during home visits should include, but are not limited to, those on the Checklist. *Partners for a Healthy Baby*, *Promoting Maternal Mental Health*, and additional curricula should be used as resources for providing perinatal education. The Home Visitor should individualize education for each mother based on her need, interest and culture. When a pregnant mother is enrolled late in pregnancy, topics and services should be prioritized based on her needs and interests.

Topics and services do not have to be offered in the order listed on the Checklist. Linking pregnant mothers to ongoing prenatal health and dental care is always a priority.

Procedure

1. At the time a service or topic is initiated, write the date in the blank space next to the topic or service.
2. If the topic or service will be ongoing or requires follow up, it should also be documented and tracked on the Family Partnership Summary and in the Family Record. In this case, write the summary # next to the date on the Checklist for easy reference.

Related Documents

Curriculum Planning Procedure – Early Head Start
Curriculum Implementation Guidance
Engaging Families in Curriculum Guidance
Pregnancy Visit Plan and Summary Form
Postpartum Visit Plan and Summary Form

Resources

Partners for a Healthy Baby: Before Baby Arrives
Partners for a Healthy Baby: Baby's First Six Months
Promoting Maternal Mental Health