Protocol for ASQ-SE2 and PHQ9 Screening in Early Intervention

Anticipated to begin with newly referred families in January 2022

SCs will tell families that the ASQ-SE2 and PHQ9 screening tools will be offered by a provider on their team during the first few months of service delivery. A flyer left with the family will outline the purpose of the screening tools, as well as coaching practices in EI.

One provider on the team will be assigned the Screener role. If more than one person on a team, ECO and Screener assignments will be split between two providers. The Screener will be assigned on the IFSP like ECO assignments.

Screenings will be explained and offered by the assigned Screener within the first 3-4 months of starting IFSP services. The first Progress Monitoring Report should reflect that the screenings were offered, and if one or both were completed. Make sure you are using the most recent version of the Progress Monitoring Report to easily capture this information.

Families are free to refuse one or both screening tools.

Screenings should not be completed at the first session with the family but should be offered after establishing rapport over several sessions. This requirement is not meant to “check a box” on your list, rather it is to support you to engage in meaningful conversation and collaboration with the family.

PHQ9 Screenings should be completed with the parent(s)/primary caregivers, either virtually or in-person. If services are not provided with the parent, the assigned provider should reach out to discuss the screening and schedule a time to meet if the parent is interested. This can be billed as IFSP Teaming if done separately from an IFSP service session or without the child present.

The ASQ-SE2 screening must be done with a parent or caregiver who knows the child well. Screening can be completed during a session, or the questionnaire can be left with the caregiver to complete between sessions. Scoring and review should happen during a session with the family/caregiver, and a copy must be left with the family. Note child strengths in social emotional development. Concerns should also be discussed together and may result in the addition of strategies, outcomes, or services on the IFSP. Resources or connections to community supports may also be helpful. If the parent agrees, newly identified needs should be addressed by the team at the next IFSP review meeting unless considered urgent. Strengths and Needs can also appear on the first Progress Monitoring Report.

Screenings are currently NOT required annually, but as additional tools in your provider toolbox, they can be used to enhance EI service delivery as needed.