

# Screening Tools for Prenatal to Three Years and Caregiver Populations: Health-Related Social Needs, Early Childhood Experiences, Relational Health for Use in Pediatric Practices

The last decade brought considerable attention to the myriad factors that influence children's, families', and communities' health. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed nearly all community safety nets to the brink and shone a light on the inequities that can derail healthy child development, particularly when present prenatally and during the first three years of life. Pediatrics is generally the only system with comprehensive and frequent connection to families with young children and thus has offers an opportunity to identify areas posing risks to health development. This document identifies available screening tools available for use by pediatric practices to more fully understand context that influences early childhood development, facilitate connections to needed resources, and strengthen relationships and resiliency for happy, healthy, and supported families.

The following table provides information on seven screening tools for use in the prenatal – three population and which cover issues across health-related social needs, Early Childhood Experiences, and Relational. The tools included in this table have been reviewed for evidence that they are in alignment with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Policy Statements concerning emotional/behavioral health<sup>1</sup> and poverty<sup>2</sup> (which are referenced in note 13 of the AAP's 2021 Periodicity Table<sup>3,4</sup>). Further, these tools have been reviewed for addressing relational health or ACEs of young children and their caregivers as recommended in the 2021 AAP policy statement regarding early relational health<sup>5</sup>. Importantly, this table is not designed to review screens for general development, autism, or social emotional development of young children; please see AAP's ScreeningTime.org website for more information on screening in these areas. The science of early childhood development is expanding rapidly, and new screening tools are being developed – thus, the table is not an exhaustive list.

## Criteria for Inclusion/Exclusion

Inclusion in this screening table is limited to screenings that: 1) are completed by either a caregiver or are self-reported (in the case where parents/caregivers are the focus); 2) are directly applicable to the prenatal-to-three pediatric population and their caregivers, and 3) demonstrate evidence from peer-reviewed literature to be effective in assessing the domain and validity within the prenatal-to-three population. Excluded from this list of screening tools are: adult-focused tools which do not include factors related to parenting (e.g., PRAPARE, Health Leads); clinician completed tools that require observational coding (e.g., Welch Emotional Connection Screening, Early Relational Health Screen) and middle childhood or older screens that are not designed for the early childhood period (e.g., Conner-Davidson Resiliency Scale).

## Table Presentation

The table presents the readily available information on each tool: Name, domains assessed, intended population/age range and informant, number of questions, languages in which tool is available, time required to complete the tool, reading level, response type, EHR compatibility, costs, if permissions are required (or modifications allowed), frequency or periodicity, whether materials beyond the screening tool and/or manual are available, if there are training requirements, and if training materials or technical assistance for implementation is available. Finally, the table indicates if the tool has English (E), Spanish (S), and Vietnamese (V) versions as these are some of the most common languages in the Central Texas region. The "+more" notation indicates that additional language options are available online or through the developers of the tool.

Name	Content Screened	Age/Informant	# Qs	Lang.	Time to Complete	Reading Level	Response Type	EHR Compatible	Costs Permissions	Frequency or Periodicity	Other Materials Available	Training Requirements/ Materials Available	TA Available
<b>Parental ACEs</b> <i>Citation</i>	<b>Single Domain:</b> Adverse Childhood Experiences	Adult, 18+ yrs  Self-report	10	E, S, V + more	<5 min	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Yes/No Count Scoring	Scores can be entered; NRA	No Cost	Annually	Yes: <a href="#">Patient and Family Education Handouts</a>	Strongly Recommended	<a href="#">Online Implementation Guide</a>
<b>PEARLS</b> <i>Citation</i>	<b>Single Domain:</b> Adverse Childhood Experiences	Pediatric, Birth-11 yrs  Caregiver	17-19	E, S, V + more	<5 min	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Yes/No Count Scoring	Scores can be entered; NRA	No Cost	Annually	Yes: <a href="#">Patient and Family Education Handouts</a>	Strongly Recommended	<a href="#">Online Implementation Guide</a> + <a href="#">Training and Technical Assistance Guide</a>
<b>Protective Factors Survey</b> <i>Citation</i>	<b>Multiple Domains:</b> Concrete Support, Family Functioning/Resiliency, Knowledge of Parent & Child Development, Nurturing and Attachment, Social Emotional Support	Pediatric, NRA  Caregiver	20	E, S	10-15 min	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	7-point scale; <i>Requires scoring, subscales included</i>	Database available, not currently able to integrate with EMR	No Cost	Originally designed for pre- and post-testing for families in family support and child maltreatment prevention services.	No	Requirements: Not readily available  Materials: <a href="#">User Manual</a>	Not readily available
<b>Protective Factors Survey-2</b> <i>Citation</i>	<b>Multiple Domains:</b> Caregiver/Practitioner Relationship, Concrete Support, Family Functioning/Resiliency, Nurturing and Attachment, Social Support	Pediatric, NRA  Caregiver	19	E	10-15 min	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	5-point scale; <i>Requires scoring, subscales included</i>	Database available, not currently able to integrate with EMR	No Cost	Originally designed for pre- and post-testing for families in family support and child maltreatment prevention services.	No	Requirements: Not readily available  Materials: <a href="#">User Manual</a> + <a href="#">Videos</a>	Not readily available
<b>SEEK</b> <i>Citation</i>	<b>Multiple Domains:</b> Depression, Food Security, Harsh Punishment, Intimate Partner Violence, Major Parental Stress, Substance Abuse	Pediatric, Birth-5 yrs  Caregiver	16	E, S, V + more	2-3 min	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	Yes/No Scoring Guide	Yes: <a href="#">SEEK software</a> <a href="#">CHADIS</a> <a href="#">Phreesia</a>	Sliding Scale Cost; License Agreement; *	Recommended at 2, 9, 15-month, and 2, 3, 4, and 5 year well-child visits. Fits with <a href="#">AAP periodicity note #13</a> .	Yes: Parent Handouts (English & Spanish) Algorithms and Responses to Barriers	<a href="#">Strongly Recommended</a> (CME, MOC2, MOC4/Performance Improvement credits available)	<a href="#">Potentially available</a> (email SEEK team; website has online training, simulations, videos, and more)
<b>SWYC: Family Questions</b> <i>Citation</i>	<b>Multiple Domains:</b> Caregiver Relationship, Depression, Food Security, Reading, Substance Use, Tobacco	Pediatric, Birth-5.5 yrs  Caregiver	10	E, S, V + more	<5 min	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	Yes/No, Multiple Choice Scoring Guide	Yes: <a href="#">patient tools</a> <a href="#">CHADIS</a> (requires email)	No Cost; Permission required for EHR integration; *	Designed to fit into <a href="#">AAP periodicity note #13</a> ; included in larger SWYC periodicity.	No	Requirements: Not readily available  Materials: <a href="#">Available online</a>	Not readily available
<b>WE CARE</b> <i>Citation</i>	<b>Multiple Domains:</b> Child Care, Education, Employment, Food Security, Housing, SDOH, Utilities	Pediatric, Birth-18 yrs  Caregiver	6-15	E, S	2-3 min	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	Yes/No No scoring	Can be integrated; NRA	No Cost; Requires permission	Designed to fit into <a href="#">AAP periodicity note #13</a> .	Yes: Family Resource Book, Resource Information Sheets	Not readily available	Not readily available

**Table Note:**

Languages: E=English, S=Spanish, V=Vietnamese, + more=more languages available from developers

Reading Level: If not provided, based on [readability scores here](#)

Acronyms: Yrs=Years; NRA=Not Readily Available

\*=Modifications allowed with permission

## Additional Considerations

- **Parental ACEs**
  - Can be deidentified (not indicating which ACE happened to the individual)
  - Short, variety of implementation resources
  - Provides contextual information
  - May not provide actionable information
- **PEARLS**
  - Can be identified or de-identified (not indicating who experienced the ACE between parent and child)
  - Limited resources for implementation outside of California
  - Note from ACE aware: Pilots of the pediatric ACE screening tool in a large pediatric setting indicate that randomization via the de-identified (as opposed to the identified) format may facilitate higher rates of disclosure and greater patient comfort with the screening experience.
- **Protective Factors Survey**
  - Seven-point scale provides more options for responses
  - Assesses multiple aspects of family relationships
  - Has additional data collection options for providers to complete
  - Designed for families in family support and child maltreatment prevention services
  - Retrospective version available (Before versus Now)
- **Protective Factors Survey-2**
  - Five-point scale is easier to score
  - Assesses multiple aspects of family relationships
  - Assesses relationship between provider and caregiver
  - Has additional data collection options for providers to complete
  - Designed for families in family support and child maltreatment prevention services
  - Retrospective version available (Before versus Now)
  - Not available in Spanish yet
- **SEEK**
  - Quick screen that includes additional materials: introducing the tool to parents, algorithms when reviewing screen with parents, adaptable parental handouts
  - TA potentially available
  - Excellent online training options (with CME/MOC credit available)
  - Reasonable scaled pricing
  - Strongly recommended training
  - Requires licensing agreement
- **SWYC: Family Questions**
  - Quick screen that if is being used as a part of larger SWYC can receive reimbursement for developmental screening
  - Limited additional support beyond the manual
  - No additional materials for screens that indicate need for discussion or follow-up
- **WE CARE**
  - Quick well-rounded screen
  - Additional support for when screen indicates need for assistance and discussion (Family Resource Book and Information Sheets)
  - Website is not currently designed for those looking to implement

## References

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5. Garner A, Yogman M, COMMITTEE ON PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH SODABP COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD. Preventing Childhood Toxic Stress: Partnering With Families and Communities to Promote Relational Health. *Pediatrics*. 2021;148(2):e2021052582. [doi:10.1542/peds.2021-052582](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-052582)