Pearls and Pitfalls in the Administration of Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)

1. Parents complete the Response Form in writing, by interview, or online (at www.forepath.org). The PEDS Response Form elicits parents' concerns about their child for each developmental domain. Across the age range of PEDS, birth to age 8, the same 10 questions are used.

   ! If the parents’ completed Response Form only includes circles for “yes”, “no” or “a little”, you cannot be sure of English literacy. Consider readministering the questions by interview, preferably in the language parents speak best.

2. Compute the child’s age and correct for prematurity if the child is less than 24 months old and more than 3 weeks premature. Locate the column in the PEDS Score Form for the child’s age range.
When parents circle “a little” to indicate the degree of concern, view this as a “yes”.

Concerns like “She’s slow”, “He can’t do what other kids can do”, etc. are the only concerns categorized as “global/cognitive”. Also, parents do not always answer the question asked. For example, parents sometimes say, in response to the third question (about receptive language) that their child just doesn’t pay attention. This is a behavior concern, not a receptive language issue. See the PEDS Brief Guide for details.
Don’t forget to add your own observations and judgments. If you have concerns about a child, add to the check boxes on the PEDS Response Form. However, never ignore or erase the parents’ concerns.

4. Total the number of shaded and unshaded concerns in the large boxes at the bottom of the PEDS Score Form. Follow the directions for the large shaded box first (these are the concerns predictive of disabilities). If none, then follow the directions for the unshaded boxes.

5. The directions below the large shaded and unshaded boxes lead you to the Interpretation Form which is printed on the back side of the PEDS Score Form. The PEDS Interpretation Form has five paths. The paths show you what to do next such as refer, screen further, what types of additional screening are needed, watch carefully, counsel parents, or simply re-assure.

6. The space on the right of the PEDS Interpretation Form is for recording your response to the family and your action steps.
7. As an alternative to hand-scoring and report writing, PEDS is also available online (along with the Modified Checklist of Autism in Toddlers and other measures will be added such as the Pediatric Symptoms Checklist by Fall, 2005) at www.forepath.org. PEDS can also be administered with a combination of the written Response Form and online scoring and automated referral letters.