

Why Screen Women for Substance Use, Intimate Partner Violence, Mental Health and Perinatal Depression? Learning Guide for Ongoing Professional Development

Note to Learner: Early Impact Virginia encourages you to complete the training and activities with the support of your supervisor. The notes below will guide you in preparing to take the training, following up with your supervisor after the training, supporting transfer of learning into daily practice, and extending learning through individual supervision.

Ongoing: View the Professional Development Program and each EIV training module as an investment in skills and knowledge to help improve home visitor effectiveness.

Before the training:

- Learner and supervisor review course objectives and home visitor competencies
- Learner rates knowledge of learning objectives

During the training, the learner:

- Completes activities
- Reflects on own response
- Identifies questions and concerns
- Prints Reflective Responses to share with supervisor
- Completes post-training evaluation

After the training:

- Learner:
 - Rates knowledge of learning objectives
 - Completes post-training activities, as required
 - Develops an action plan for applying skills and knowledge in daily practice
 - Meets with supervisor to:
 - Review pre- and post-training activities
 - Discuss reflections, questions, and concerns
 - Review action plan for applying skills and knowledge in daily practice
 - Assess personal learning goals, transfer of learning, and action plan

This 45-minute online module introduces home visitors to screening clients for substance use, intimate partner violence and mental health issues. It provides a statistical overview of the prevalence of these concerns and gives information about the impact they have on health and well-being in the home. The module also demonstrates best practices for screening, including frequency, different tools available, and techniques for creating a comfortable and successful screening environment.

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Virginia Home Visitor Competencies Addressed:

- 2.3.a Explains how various factors such as parents’ mental and physical health, poverty, child abuse and neglect, culture, the mother’s prenatal care and experiences, and early substance exposure affects the child’s development, well-being, and brain development.
- 3.4.a. Understands and communicates the ways in which the following stressors impact family members and affect the ability to parent: abuse and neglect, family conflict and domestic violence, substance use and abuse, and mental health disorders.
- 4.6.d. Understands the proper steps to ensure family safety when safety is threatened.
- 4.6.e. Increases parent’s knowledge and awareness of signs of depression, trauma, domestic violence, or mental illness.
- 6.1.a. Understands that relationships form the basis for all home visiting work and establishes an ongoing alliance with families that supports the family’s strengths, priorities, and changing circumstances.
- 6.1.f. Adjusts plans and practices based upon changing family needs without losing focus on the parent-child relationship.
- 6.3.c. Abides by all legal standards when conducting a home visit.
- 6.3.e. Understands Virginia laws related to infants exposed prenatally to drugs.
- 6.7.c. Understands and effectively uses screening tools required by program or funding agency.
- 6.8.c. Collaborates and communicates with other service agencies to ensure that the child and family receive services for which they are eligible and that the services are coordinated.

Before the Training

Rate Your Knowledge (Scale of 0 to 5, 0 = no knowledge, 5 = significant knowledge)

Learning Objective	Before the Training	After the Training
List reasons why home visitors should screen all mothers.		
Describe the difference between screening and assessment.		
Develop and improve screening, intervention, and referral skills.		
Explain the importance of screening for multiple risks.		
Explain why a mother may not acknowledge issues.		
Describe best practices for screening.		
Demonstrate how to create and maintain a respectful environment.		

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My personal learning goals for this training are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

After the Training

Reflections on what I learned:

Questions and concerns I identified:

Action Plan: (Each learner’s plan will be unique. To get you started, some ideas are listed below.) As a result of this training, I will...

- Learn my program’s guidelines for screening tools and frequency of screening. Request training on using the tool if I am unfamiliar with it.
- Practice introducing screening to women.
- Review my resource and referral toolkit to make sure it includes resources for substance use, mental health, domestic violence, and child abuse and neglect concerns.

My Action Plan

Action	Target Date	Date Completed

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