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A GUIDE FOR MONITORING CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN PEDIATRIC PRACTICE

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Developmental monitoring and the early detection of developmental problems in infants and young children is often challenging in clinical practice. The Developmental Monitoring Guide (DMG), designed to be used as part of routine clinical practice, is a semi-structured interview with open-ended questions and scoring based on parental report of the child's development. It aims to assist in the early identification of developmental problems and promote the young child's development by increasing relevant physician-parent communication. In a previous study we found the concordance rate of the DMG and the Denver II to be 98.6 %, Kappa 0.94 ($p < 0.001$). The purpose of this study was to determine whether medical students and pediatric residents could easily learn and use the DMG. Over a three-year period, 1200 fifth year medical students and 25 pediatric residents were trained in the DMG. The average teaching time including theoretical concepts on child development and a practice session was 2.5 hours. Administration time for the DMG was 10 minutes. Inter-rater reliability between paired students was high (Kappa 0.89, $p < 0.001$). Students and pediatric residents found the DMG easy to learn and use and reported that during the administration of the DMG a supporting relationship with the parent, and an understanding of the nurturance and stimulation in the child's environment was formed. The DMG will be used by the Turkish Ministry of Health for the developmental surveillance of children under 3 years of age, and may have implications for other countries with similar medical education and health care systems.

