



### Alabama Project LAUNCH Mission:

To address the social and emotional health and well-being of infants, young children and their families through an integrated early childhood system of care.

### Alabama Project LAUNCH Vision:

Children in Alabama, ages birth to eight years old, will thrive in safe, healthy, supportive environments and will be prepared to reach their fullest potential.

### How Alabama Project LAUNCH works:

- Alabama Project LAUNCH provides developmental screening, referral services, parent and family support and young child mental health consultation in Tuscaloosa County.
- Alabama Project LAUNCH works throughout Alabama to strengthen state systems of early care and education.

If you are interested in learning more about or joining the Alabama Project LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Council, please contact:

#### State Council

Alabama Partnership for Children  
info@smartstartalabama.org  
866-711-4025

#### Local Council

Amy Crosby  
acrosby@ches.ua.edu  
205-348-4036

*helping children soar*



Alabama  
**PROJECT  
LAUNCH**

Alabama Project LAUNCH is funded by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and implemented by the Alabama Department of Mental Health, Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Partnership for Children and Child Development Resources at The University of Alabama.

Linking Actions  
for Unmet Needs  
in Children's Health

Alabama Project  
LAUNCH is guided  
by state and local  
Young Child Wellness  
Councils made up of  
parents, providers and  
community leaders.



### Alabama Project LAUNCH Prevention and Promotion Strategies:

- Screening and assessment in a range of child-serving settings
- Integration of behavioral health into primary care
- Mental health consultation in early care and education
- Enhanced home visiting with a focus on social and emotional well-being
- Family strengthening and parent skills training

### Infant /Early Childhood Mental Health

is the social, emotional and behavioral well-being of infants, toddlers, young children and their families, which includes the developing capacity of a child to:

- experience, regulate and express various emotions;
- form close, secure relationships; and
- explore the environment

while learning and playing in the context of the family, community and cultural expectations for young children.

### Alabama Project LAUNCH Objectives:

- Increase access to screening, assessment and referral to appropriate services
- Expand use of culturally relevant, evidence-based prevention and wellness promotion practices
- Increase integration of behavioral health into primary care settings
- Improve coordination and collaboration across disciplines
- Increase workforce knowledge of young children's social and emotional development

### Did You Know . . .

- Nearly 85% of brain development occurs in the first few years of life before children enter kindergarten.
- If a child is not reading at grade level in the first grade, there is a 90% chance he will not read at grade level by the fourth grade.
- Preschoolers are expelled at 3 times the rate of older children. African American children in preschool are about twice as likely to be expelled than their Latino and Caucasian peers.
- 20% of children are at risk for developmental delays. 30% of Alabama parents say they have a concern about their child's development.