



THE FIVE WHYS EXERCISE TEMPLATE



INSTRUCTIONS

Begin by stating the problem. Next, answer the question “Why is this a problem?” Continue asking “why?” four additional times, or until you feel you have identified the root cause. The root cause should identify a process that is not working well or does not exist. Keep in mind that “people do not fail, processes do.” If your answers point towards reasons such as inadequate time, resources, or staff, try to reframe the question from “why?” to “why did the process fail?”

There may be multiple barriers or problems related to developmental screening in your community. Some of these problems and barriers may be drawn from the Weakness and Threats identified through the SWOT analysis. Complete The Five Whys exercise for each problem to identify all root causes. After completing the exercise for each problem, copy each problem and associated root cause into the table provided on the next page for easy reference as you move through the planning process.

STATE THE PROBLEM:

1. Why is this a problem? Because...

2. Why? Because...

3. Why? Because...

4. Why? Because...

5. Why? Because...

PROBLEM OR BARRIER	ROOT CAUSE