When to Refer Young Children for Services

“Red Flags” for children 5 years and younger:

- Fear of separation from parent
- Crying, whimpering
- Screaming
- Immobility, aimless motion, and trembling
- Frightened facial expressions
- Excessive clinging Returning to behaviors shown at earlier ages
- Thumb sucking
- Bedwetting
- No longer toilet trained
- Fear of darkness
- New fears

Remember – Younger children are strongly affected by parents/adults’ reactions to traumatic event

When to refer the child for mental health consultation, evaluation, or services:

- Severe family or child environmental and/or psychosocial issues
- Emotional/behavioral symptoms that cause distress to the child and/or parent
- Mental health issues that are affecting the child’s functioning
- Severe disruption in classroom
- Severe withdrawal/depressed behaviors