

I am writing a submission regarding specifically the recommendations to screen infants to preschoolers for “social and emotional development before they enter preschool as a concerned citizen, mother, aunt, future grandmother.

This has the risk of leading to diagnosis of conditions leading to dangerous antidepressants, antipsychotics and other such psychotropic drugs to of all things babies and toddlers! Sure it will be said that this may not occur, but what guarantee is there in the proposed recommendations that such fates are not laying in wait for our most vulnerable members of society.

That it would even need to be considered to drug a baby, because maybe it is not sleeping well for example. Does such screen take into account the home environment, the inexperience of new parents and the stress they are under that then affects the baby. Does the quality of nutrition that the baby is getting, get even considered in such a screening. All these simple factors can vastly effect the emotional and social development of the baby and even for that matter, a toddler, and even a preschooler, primary schooler or high schooler.

I can understand the desire to ensure all children develop well, socially and emotionally, but a screening without taking into account the surrounding environment and interactions and nutrition of those being proposed to be screened, a very narrow and limited view could easily establish the psychotropic route and more heartbreak and sorrow for all involved.

It would seem more and more of the population are on drugs, street or prescription, there are more drug-related violent crimes now then any time in history, there are more suicides and attempted suicide then ever, more stress related absences and stress-related accidents in the workplace then ever. Isn't it time this whole “mental health” system be TRULY looked at in terms of its PRODUCTS and actually come up with REAL solutions which are just going to lead to more profit in someone's vested interest pockets.

PLEASE, PLEASE find solutions that do really work.