Medical Assistant/Screening Specialist Sample Script:
Introducing the ACEs Questionnaire

This script is based on the Center for Youth Wellness/Bayview Child Health Center (CYW/BCHC) model and is an example of one way to introduce an ACEs screening tool.

“We have some forms that we'd like for you to complete so that the doctor understands how [Child’s Name] is doing. The doctor will answer any questions you have about the forms, and I’m here if you need clarification on the instructions.

There are [X] forms in this packet and we give these forms to all of our patients. (Present other forms as routinely done.)

The second piece of paper in this packet is the [ACEs questionnaire]. This is something we give to each patient. This form asks some personal questions and screens for health risks due to exposure to stress and adversity.

(Depending on which screening tool used, give instruction on how to complete the form, who the questions are about; i.e., child or parent/caregiver, as well as who should complete it)

When you have finished, please return the forms to me. I will place everything in a folder and give it to the doctor before you and [Child’s Name] go in for your visit.”

PLEASE NOTE: If you are using a screening approach that requests a cumulative score, rather than identification of specific ACEs, it may be important to explicitly remind patients to provide a total score and not to check individual items; e.g., “Please review the statements and write down only the number of statements that apply to your child, not which ones.”

Source: BCHC/CYW User Guide

Note: This script was developed based on the Bayview Child Health Center/Center for Youth Wellness model of ACEs screening that uses MA introduction of 3 versions of a paper-based tool focused on the child’s ACEs.