



# What are Developmental Screenings for Children?



Developmental screenings help identify children who may be at risk for a developmental delay, and can lead to services provided to assist them in reaching their full potential.

## What it IS... and ISN'T

- ✓ A snapshot of a child's skills, abilities and knowledge at one point in time
- ✓ A tool used to assist early childhood educators in determining if further intervention is needed to help a child feel confident and ready to learn
- ✗ A judgement on the child or parents or guardians for delays in development
- ✗ A tool to label a child

## Why do a screening?

Early intervention is key to finding the right supports early enough to make a difference in a child's life before starting kindergarten!

It bridges the child's education between their first teacher (YOU) and their teachers at their child care program. Providing supports to both the child and the family can make everyone feel more confident and prepared for school success!

## Common Screenings

### ASQ

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire is designed for children aged 1 month to five years. It is typically completed by the parent. Parents may be asked by a pediatrician to complete an ASQ assessment at their child's normal nine-month checkup!



### Brigance

The Brigance screening is designed for children birth through first grade. If your child is enrolled in an child care program or another school setting, their teacher (typically trained by the school) may use the Brigance screening within 60 days of enrollment, and then twice per year.

## What happens after a developmental screening?

Results for every screening are interpreted by the teacher and a summary is provided to the parent. A referral for further screening may be provided to the parent, with resources and service providers located near the family's home.

**"I have the results of my child's screening. Now what?"**

Routine monitoring and additional activities to support development may be all that is needed.

If the concerns are more immediate, further screening by a licensed specialist may be needed to find any possible barriers to learning, which might include screenings to check hearing, vision, speech, physical or other causes.

It could also be helpful to explore an individual plan with your child's teacher or caregiver that includes goals and strategies to further assist the child where parents and support you!

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## How do I get a screening?

Primary care providers such as doctors, medical assistants or nurse practitioners may complete an ASQ at the 9-month interval as part of their routine medical care. Or they may use other types of screening tools.

Parents or guardians often complete a screening such as an ASQ (Ages & Stages Questionnaire) to get the whole picture of their child's true level of skills, abilities and knowledge.

Early Childhood Educators often complete a Brigance screening, or may also complete an ASQ to assist in forming the whole picture. They may also complete many other types of screenings available.

Early learning professionals and caregivers can be wonderful advocates for children's growth and development! Trust your child's teachers to ensure they are getting all they need to be successful!



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