



Developmental Screening: What it means for early learning providers



As an early learning provider, you have the unique and exciting opportunity to make sure every child in your program can participate in developmental screening. You are an important resource for parents, and you play a big role in giving children in your community the best chance at success.

That's why developmental screening is one of Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) standards for early learning programs to reach a 3-star quality rating. But what is developmental screening and what is your role? More information and resources will be coming soon, but here's a brief overview to get you started.

What is developmental screening?

Developmental screening is an ongoing process used to identify children at risk for possible developmental, behavioral or social delays. Screening tools do not diagnose delays or disabilities, but they can help identify children who may need further evaluation and support services.

Why is developmental screening important?

By identifying delays as early as possible, children can be connected to the support they need, when they need it. Early intervention is critical for supporting children with developmental delays or disabilities to reach kindergarten ready to succeed. When formal screening isn't used, only 20–30% of children with delays are identified before they enter school.

Which screening tool should I use?

You know that children learn skills at different speeds. But how do you know what's normal and what's not? By using a screening tool that's standardized, valid and highly sensitive, you can avoid much of that guesswork.



Ages & Stages Questionnaires®,
Third Edition (ASQ-3)

Many screening tools exist, but it's important that everyone uses the same tool so it's easy to measure and share results. Oregon's Early Learning Council has adopted the **Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)** as the statewide developmental screening tool. The ASQ is already the most-used screening tool in Oregon health care settings, and it's available in several languages.

What is my role in developmental screening?

The ASQ is a series of brief questionnaires completed by parents or caregivers when their child reaches specific ages. As an early learning provider, you may partner with parents to complete the questionnaires if you know the child well. In general, the screening process looks like this:

1. Parent or caregiver completes a questionnaire about their child's abilities
2. Early learning provider scores the questionnaire
3. Parent and early learning provider discuss strengths and needs, and/or parent reviews screening results with health care provider
4. Provider refers child for further evaluation and community-based support as needed
5. Screening is repeated at specific intervals or when concerns are identified

What resources will be available?

- **ASQ Oregon online screening tool** – We recommend using the online tool, but hard copies are also available:
 - **Online** – It's free at asqoregon.com. Look for enhancements coming in 2014.
 - **Kits** – You can also buy kits containing hard copies. We may have grant funds to buy a limited number of these kits, so stay tuned for more information.
- **Workforce training** – Standardized curriculum for developmental screening and the ASQ are being developed. More information will be coming soon.

What should I do now?

1. **Explore the ASQ Oregon online screening tool** – You can start using the ASQ in your program at any time (asqoregon.com). Just be aware that enhancements and trainings are on their way.
2. **Complete a workforce needs assessment** – As we develop workforce training, we need your help to make sure it's exactly what you want and need. Please complete this brief 10-minute survey by Monday, December 16 (thank you!): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ELscreen>

Who can I contact for more information?

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Thanks for all you do for children in your community!