

# Child Screening and Assessment

Screening and assessment provide valuable information about each child's interests, strengths, and needs. **Screening** gives a quick annual snapshot of a child's overall behavior and development. **Assessment** is an ongoing process that includes observation and provides information about development over time. Children grow and develop at different rates. Screenings and assessments help identify when additional support and interventions are necessary.



## Screenings

A brief test or questionnaire that is research based. It asks questions about a child's development across domains. These can be completed in partnership with families by trained medical professionals or early learning professionals and can be conducted in the child's medical or school settings. Screenings are intended to help identify children who may have a possible delay in their development and can provide baseline data that could be a good indicator of the child's strengths and needs. Screenings also ensure any potential delays are identified for referrals to other appropriate services.

*Children Birth-3 will have more screenings completed due to their rapid growth and development.*



## Assessment

An ongoing examination of a child's development over time. This ensures the child is progressing and meeting milestones. Ongoing assessment supports learning, helps identify special needs, and guides the adults to individualize for and respond to each child. It helps inform curriculum planning and teaching across all domains of development.



## Key Principles

Parent and caregivers are an integral part of the process.

- Information is most accurate when gained from multiple sources and contexts.
- Tasks and settings should be relevant and familiar to the child.
- Assessors are knowledgeable and trained in the specific tool(s).
- Tool(s) used should be normed, reliable, and validated.
- Tool(s) should be culturally and linguistically appropriate.

## RESOURCES

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE CENTER  
Child Screening and Assessment  
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment>

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
Developmental Monitoring and Screening  
[www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/screening.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/screening.html)

NAEYC – DAP: Observing, Documenting, and Assessing  
Children's Development and Learning  
[www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/assessing-development](http://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/assessing-development)

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