

Parent Guide

What is Screening and Why is it Important?

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops faster than at any other time in life. Screening is a quick check to make sure a child is developing on schedule. Screening results show a child's strengths and areas that may need support. There are simple, fun activities parents can do to support a child's development.

What is ASQ-3?

Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, 3rd Edition (ASQ®-3) is a parent-completed screening tool. ASQ-3 asks questions in 5 important areas of a child's development:

- **Communication** asks about language—what a child understands and says.
- **Gross motor** asks about the large muscles of a child's body, arms, and legs.
- **Fine motor** asks about the small muscles of a child's hands and fingers.
- **Problem solving** asks how a child thinks, solves problems, and plays with toys.
- **Personal-social** asks about self-help skills (feeding, dressing) and interactions with others.

Important Points Before You Get Started

- ✓ Talk to your provider about materials you need to try ASQ-3 items.
- ✓ Talk to your provider about any concerns or questions you have.
- ✓ Make sure your child is rested and fed and ready to play!
- ✓ Take a few days to finish ASQ-3. It's okay to practice!
- ✓ Your child will be able to do some but not all of the items asked.



How to Complete ASQ-3

1. **Observe or try** each item, then **mark a response**:
 - **YES**—Your child can do this skill.
 - **SOMETIMES**—Your child is learning this skill but is not quite there yet.
 - **NOT YET**—Your child is not able to do this skill yet.
2. **You may skip items if**:
 - You don't have materials or don't understand the question.
 - The item is not okay with your family values or beliefs.
3. **Complete the Overall Section**:
 - Questions are answered **YES** or **NO**.
 - Please share any concerns or worries you may have about your child.

Areas on

The ASQ®-3 screens five key areas of development in young children to create a well-rounded snapshot of the child's skills and abilities. This handout lists the areas of development and briefly explains each.

Communication

Assesses language, both what a child understands and how they follow directions (**receptive**) and how they vocalize, use words, and start to make sentences (**expressive**).

Gross Motor

Assesses large muscle (body, arms, and legs) movement and coordination.

Fine Motor

Assesses eye/hand and hand/finger movements and coordination, pre-writing skills.

Problem Solving

Assesses skills of thinking and learning, how child solves problems, pre-academic skills.

Personal-Social

Assesses **self-help** skills (e.g., feeding, dressing, toileting) and **social interactions** with others.