

Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

A Research-Based Assessment Survey for Parents & Professionals

When social-emotional problems are identified and addressed early, children are less likely to be placed in special education programs and less likely to experience school failure and unemployment. Because early childhood screening has so many benefits, influential laws and organizations have recently made it a top priority.

ASQ is designed to evaluate early childhood routines and parental engagement making it simple, accurate and effective. This begins by selecting the questionnaire that matches the child's age. Parents answer the ASQ questions, such as "Does your baby pick up a crumb or Cheerio with the tips of his

thumb and a finger?" The parent answers yes, sometimes, or not yet then moves on to the next question. This simple process takes about 10–15 minutes and offers profound insight into a child's development.

The ASQ questionnaire results are scored quickly and accurately (electronically) or easily scored by hand in just 2–3 minutes if in person. Scores compare the child's scores to the cutoff points listed on the scoring sheet. Results are then communicated and discussed with parents and next steps are determined by suggesting use of follow-up resources or follow-up monitoring or further assessment if needed. Parents are encouraged to use fun, fast learning activities and celebrate milestones.

Screening young children is an effective, efficient way for professionals to check a child's development, help parents celebrate their child's milestones and know what to look for next, and determine whether follow-up steps are needed. It's also an essential first step toward identifying children with delays or disorders in the critical early years, before they start school.

Did you know?

Because social-emotional and developmental delays in children can be subtle, most children who would benefit from early intervention aren't identified until after they start school. In fact, this happens 70% of the time when

busy pediatricians and specialists rely on clinical judgment alone.

Developmental delays, learning disorders, and behavioral and social-emotional problems are estimated to affect 1 in every 6 children. Only 20% to 30% of these children are identified as needing help before school begins. Intervention before kindergarten has huge academic, social, and economic benefits.

Studies have shown that children who receive early treatment for developmental delays are more likely to graduate from high school, hold jobs, live independently, and avoid teen pregnancy, delinquency, and violent crime, which results in societal savings of \$30,000 to \$100,000 per child. 🧩



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