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. But what is developmental screening and what is your role? Here is 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. Screening identifies over 70-80% of children at risk for developmental delays.

Which screening tool should I use?

Because children learn skills at different rates, using a standardized and valid screening tool avoids much of the guesswork about what is and isn't typical for specific ages.

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

Although many screening tools exist, 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 both English and Spanish.

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. Early Learning Provider provides the option of developmental screening to parent
2. Parent/caregiver chooses to complete a questionnaire about their child's abilities
3. Early learning provider assists in scoring the questionnaire
4. Parent and early learning provider discuss strengths and needs, and/or parent reviews screening results with health care provider
5. Provider presents options and resources and, in partnership with the parent or caregiver, supports the parent in connecting to services that the child needs including further evaluation and community-based support as needed
6. Screening is repeated at specific intervals and anytime there are questions about the child's development.

What resources are available?

- **ASQ Oregon is a free online screening tool** – Go to asqoregon.com to access the tool in both English and Spanish. Look for enhancements coming soon.

- **Kits-** We recommend using the free online tool, but hard copies are also available for purchase at agesandstages.com or by calling **1-800-638-3775**.

- **Workforce training** – To learn more about implementing developmental screening at your programs and working with parents, we recommend attending the "Implementing Developmental Screening Using the ASQ" training, available across the state. For information on upcoming trainings, contact your local CCR&R or visit the Oregon Registry training calendar at https://calendar.oregonregistryonline.org/

- **Early Learning Hubs-** You may also contact your local Early learning Hub for more resource information http://oregonearlylearning.com/current-early-learning-hubs/

Who can I contact for more information?

QRIS:
QRIS Helpline
The Research Institute
1-877-768-8290
qrishelp@wou.edu
oregonqris.org

Developmental screening:
Child Wellbeing Team
Oregon Health Authority
971-673-0265
child.development@state.or.us

Thanks for all you do for children in your community!