

Developmental Screeners, and Why They're Important

At your child's regular Well Child Visits, their provider will use reliable tools called "screeners." Screeners are a quick check of your child's development, and can be used to assess motor, cognitive, language, and social-emotional skills, and help to determine whether or not your child is meeting the milestones for their age.

Around 1 in 7 children are affected by developmental delays, learning disorders, and behavioral or social-emotional issues. When issues are identified before kindergarten, children can be helped early and set up for success. Screenings can let us know if your child needs support, which can be as simple as fun activities to help your child practice a skill.



As a parent, you know your child best! Your responses and participation in the screening process are incredibly helpful to ensure that your child receives the care they need. Some of the screeners that you may see during Well Child Visits include:

Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale

This helps ensure that mothers are feeling their best, and have the support they need to care for their new baby.

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

The ASQ checks developmental progress, and provides guidance on what areas may need more attention.

Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)

The M-CHAT is a 2-stage, parent-report screening tool to assess risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC)

The PSC is a brief questionnaire that helps identify and assess changes in emotional and behavioral problems in children.

CRAFFT

The CRAFFT is a validated questionnaire/interview to detect substance use among 12- to 21-year-old adolescents.

PHQ-A

A tool for screening adolescent suicide risk based on the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9).

PEARLS

A screener for Adverse Childhood Experiences and household challenges, and risk factors for toxic stressors such as community violence, discrimination, and food insecurity.

