

Are you pregnant or a parent of a young child?

Here is what you need to know about developmental screening.

As a parent you want the best for your child. You want to make sure your child has everything needed to grow and develop well. Since children are so different, how can you tell if your child is on the right track? Developmental screening is a way to learn about your child's growth and development so you can make sure your son or daughter can reach their potential.

This brochure will provide you with answers to questions regarding developmental screening of your child.



This brochure is made possible through the support of the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council, a collaboration of state agencies, organizations, and individuals dedicated to helping New York State's families with young children be able to grow, develop and learn optimally. For more information about the ECAC, contact Regina.Canuso@ccf.ny.gov.



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What is developmental screening?

Developmental screening is a short set of questions to help you and your health care provider know if your child is growing, doing the things your son or daughter should at that age, and developmentally on track. Sometimes you can answer the questions in the waiting room or when you meet with the doctor or nurse. Your child's development should be discussed with your health care provider at every well-child visit.

When should my child get a developmental screen?

All children should get a developmental screen during their regular well-child visits throughout childhood. It is especially important when they are 9 months old, 18 months old, and between 24 and 30 months old.

You do not need to make a special visit to the doctor. Ask your doctor about developmental screening just to make sure your child gets one done at regular visits. The screening is easy to complete; it can often be done in the waiting room or during your child's routine medical check-up.

If you have concerns about your child's development at any age, you can raise those with your health care provider.

How long does a developmental screening take?

You should be able to complete a screen during the visit although the amount of time may be different every time.

What will the screening tell me?

The screening can let you and your doctor know if your child's growth and development is similar to other children of the same age. If everything is fine, there is nothing more for you to do.

Sometimes the screen tells the doctor that a child might need a little help. If this is the case, your doctor might ask that a different screening be done just to make sure. Your doctor's office can connect you to places you can go to get help for your child if there is a problem. It is important to share this information with your child's day care or educational setting to ensure that your child receives the appropriate support to enhance their learning.



Are there other places where developmental screening takes place?

Yes, many child care centers, family child care homes, Prekindergarten, nursery schools, or Head Start programs may screen children and families to help you know how your child is doing and help your family find the services you need.

What if I have concerns about my child's development?

Talk to your child's health care provider about any concerns you may have. Or call the New York State "Growing Up Healthy" 24-hour toll free hotline at 1-800-522-5006 (in New York City call 311) to find your local Early Intervention Program.

To learn more about children's development, check out:
www.healthychildren.org.

