

# Completing the Online ASQ Developmental Screening

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Developmental screenings are a “snapshot” of how your child is doing at this moment. Even if you’re pretty sure your child is on track, they’re a helpful tool for giving you ideas of where to focus your attention in the short-term to make sure they’re well rounded. Screenings are especially helpful if you have any concerns about your child’s development – a screening tool can either reassure you that they actually are on track or it can verify that they have some challenges that you should seek support for early on.

Developmental delays, learning disorders, 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.

## The ASQ

The ASQ – Ages & Stages Questionnaire, is a free online tool, using a method that’s been proven through research with tens of thousands of parents. It looks at how your child is doing in five areas: communication, large motor, fine motor, social-emotional, and problem-solving.

Doing the questionnaire takes 15 – 20 minutes. It’s easier to do on a laptop or desktop than on a mobile device. It’s best to do it when your child is around so you can check their skills if there is any answer you’re not sure about. And it’s best if they’re rested, fed, and relaxed so they can show you their best skills.

## Completing the Online ASQ

Go to <https://osp.uoregon.edu/home/checkDevelopment>. (Or the tool is also available at <http://www.easterseals.com/mtffc/asq/>) Provide your child’s birth date and other information as requested.

On the questionnaire, you’ll be asked 30 questions – 6 questions per category. You’ll mark “yes” if this is something your child is definitely capable of and has done successfully multiple times. If they have done it a few times or they can sometimes do it but not always, mark “sometimes”. If they’ve never done it, mark “not yet”. The way the survey is designed, we expect a “not yet” or a couple “sometimes” in any given category, so don’t worry if you’re seeing some. Mark answers as accurately as you can.

Enter your email address to receive results by email. (If you’d prefer not to give your email, it’s fine to click to skip this step, and it will take you on to a page where you can “download your ASQ Results letter”)

## Understanding Your ASQ Results

Your results will look something like this:

<b>Your child’s development appears to be on schedule at this time.</b>	
<b>On schedule</b>	Communication, Gross Motor, Problem Solving, Personal-Social
<b>Monitor</b>	Fine Motor
<b>Not on schedule</b>	None

or

<b>ASQSE</b>	Social-emotional development is in a monitor area at this time.
<b>Overall Section</b>	You noted a concern in this section. See below for follow-up ideas.

**If your child shows as being “on schedule”** that’s good news. This test rarely has “false positives.” If a screening shows that a child is on track developmentally, we can be reassured all is well. You can just keep doing what you’re doing with them. Or, if there’s one developmental area where you had more “sometimes” or “not yet” then you may choose to do more activities in that area to ensure they stay well-rounded.

**If your child has some things marked as “monitor”** – I think of those as “grey areas”. This test can have “false negatives” where the test shows a possible problem, and it turns out that all is well. So, if I see “monitor” in one area, that makes me go “hmmmm.... I wonder why.” Here are the questions I ask myself

- Can they do similar things? The first thing I do is look back at the questions in that section and how you answered them. (The questionnaire with your answers marked will be attached to your email, or you can find it by clicking on “download your completed ASQ”.) Sometimes there were just super specific questions, for example, there’s a fine motor question of “does your child flip switches on and off” or “can your child string beads on a string” and you said no just because they happen to have not ever done this exact task. Are you confident that they have enough fine motor skills that they could do *something like that*? If so, then there’s no reason to worry about it.
- Is there a reason they might be behind in this particular area of development at this particular time? For example, if you are a bilingual household, your child might test as “behind” in language in ONE of those languages. But if you think they have solid language skills in BOTH languages, I wouldn’t worry. If you tend to solve problems for your child whenever they get frustrated, they might be “behind” in a problem solving skill, like getting themselves dressed. Or sometimes kids are behind in large motor skills in the winter time just because we haven’t been playing outside where there’s room to run.
- Is there a reason why they might be behind overall right now? If you’ve had any big stressors in your family recently – like a move, a new baby, a death in the family, a divorce – these are all things that might have distracted your child’s learning temporarily.

If you find answers to these questions that satisfy you, it’s likely that all is well and there’s no reason to worry. It wouldn’t hurt to put some extra effort into building your child’s skills over the next two months, and then do another screening just to be sure.

If you’re still concerned, or **If your child is marked as “not on schedule”** in one or more areas, you definitely want to explore it more. Ask yourself the questions above to get a clear understanding of the results, then consult with your child’s doctor, teacher, or another professional. It is possible that when you investigate more, it will turn out all is well, or there is only a temporary delay. But it’s important to check to be sure, because if a child does have any developmental challenges, the sooner they get support, the better.

**Resources if you’re concerned about your child’s development:**

- <https://www.cdc.gov/act-early/families/concerned.html> explains developmental screenings, offers tip on how to talk to your child’s doctor, and how to contact your state’s early intervention system
- <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/ei-overview/> is an overview of early intervention – covering developmental delays, eligibility for intervention, and links to services in your state

**Resources to build all kids’ skills**

- [www.zerotothree.org/early-development/ages-and-stages](http://www.zerotothree.org/early-development/ages-and-stages) has tons of resources on child development
- [VROOM](#) is a mobile app, with tips on fun activities to try; PBS Kids website also has great ideas.