



Ohio Department of **HEALTH**



The Ages & Stages Questionnaires - FACTS

About Screening

The years from birth to the start of kindergarten are an important time of rapid learning and growth for children. Early childhood screening is a quick and simple way to see how children are doing during these vital years. It identifies, at an early stage, possible developmental concerns so that children can get needed help before starting school.

About the ASQ

The ASQ can identify infants or young children who are in need of further developmental evaluation and determine whether children may benefit from early intervention services.

The ASQ system has three components:

1. Set of questionnaires
2. Procedures for efficient and effective use of the questionnaires
3. Support materials for use with the questionnaires

The questionnaires are composed of 19 questions and designed with parent-participation in mind.

The ASQ covers 30 developmental items in the following five areas:

- Communication – babbling, vocalizing, listening, and understanding
- Gross motor – arm, body and leg movements
- Fine motor – hand and finger movements
- Problem solving – learning and playing with toys
- Personal/social – solitary social play and play with toys and other children

Questionnaires are available for 4 months to 60 months.

The ASQ and Step Up to Quality

The Ages & Stage Questionnaires fulfill the specialized training requirements of Step Up to Quality after providers meet the required prerequisites.

Benefits of the Ages & Stages Questionnaires

- **Provides reliable and accurate results.**

Though many screening tools are in use today, few have been as rigorously researched as ASQ. The Ages & Stages Questionnaire has repeatedly been shown to correctly identify children who have delays. Extensive and continuing testing has shown that ASQ has high rates of reliability, validity, and accuracy.

- **Highly recommended.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Neurology, the Child Neurology Society, the First Signs organization dedicated to the early identification of children with developmental delays, and many others, rate ASQ as a high-quality developmental screening tool.

- **Easy to use.**
Programs overwhelmingly give ASQ high marks for being parent friendly and easy to use. The questionnaires are color-coded by age, written at a 4th–6th-grade reading level, and accompanied by simple illustrations to enhance understanding.
- **Parent-report tool.**
Studies show that parents' observations of their children are very good predictors of developmental delays. Parent-report tools also make use of valuable input from the family, fulfilling the spirit of federal mandates calling for the involvement of parents as partners in their child's assessment and intervention.
- **Available in several languages.**
In addition to English, the questionnaires are available in Spanish, French, and Korean. Other languages, including Mandarin Chinese, Somali, and Arabic, are in development.
- **The only tool that links to developmental milestones.**
Of the three parent-report tools cited as excellent by the American Academy of Pediatrics, ASQ is the only one that specifically tailors each questionnaire to an age group, enabling it to serve as a valuable tool for educating parents about their child's development and for planning follow-up activities.
- **Includes follow-up activities.**
Activity sheets designed to help parents encourage their children's development are included in The ASQ User's Guide and make it easier to educate parents. Even more activities linked to age and developmental area are available in Ages & Stages Learning Activities
- **Makes effective ongoing monitoring of development possible.**
Because of the rapid developmental changes in the early years, the American Academy of Pediatrics and others recommend that infants and young children be screened on a regular and periodic basis. Professionals can use each age-specific ASQ questionnaire at intervals to watch for and catch developmental delays that may not be detected in a single screening.

For additional info visit www.agesandstages.com