

Early Childhood Screening

September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited you and your child are a part of one of our early childhood programs. Your child's teaching team will create joyful and interactive learning experiences to help build the foundation needed for a lifetime of learning. This includes keeping track of your child's progress on social, physical, academic, and language skills throughout the year.

What is an Early Childhood Screening?

In the beginning of the year, programs use a screening tool to understand each child's development. This may include a social-emotional screening tool to learn more about your child's social and emotional development. These screenings will help teaching teams get to know your child and support their growth. They are not a test of intelligence. They are not related to admission into any program. The teaching team will share the outcome of your child's screenings with you.

Are all children screened?

Most children will be screened, including all children in Early Head Start and Head Start. Your child may not be screened if:

- he or she currently receives Early Intervention (EI) services or preschool special education services (has an IEP)
- the screening is not available in your child's home language.

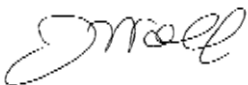
In these cases, your child's teacher will use information from observing and documenting what your child does, and from conversations with you, to learn about their developmental and instructional needs. They will speak with you about your child's progress throughout the year.

What do I need to do?

We are asking you to complete and return the Family Questionnaire given to you by your child's teacher. This is important because you know your child best and your knowledge is crucial to the screening process. Additionally, teachers may get to know you and your family through other surveys, including one that asks about language use at home.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher, or you can reach our office at earlychildhood@schools.nyc.gov. For more information on Early Childhood, check out these family resources: [Early Childhood Learning](#), [Early Childhood Resources](#), & the [Early Childhood Family Toolkit](#).

Sincerely,



Josh Wallack

Deputy Chancellor for Early Childhood Education and Student Enrollment

