

Developmental Screening Policy, 2020-21

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the developmental screening policy, and which tools are approved?

For the 2020-21 school year, the Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE) developmental screening requirements remain the same: Teaching teams are required to administer a developmental screening to all children within 45 calendar days of enrollment. Staff administering the developmental screenings should take into consideration the needs and backgrounds of the children that they are serving and ensure that screenings are implemented using culturally, linguistically and developmentally responsive materials.

Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the DECE will provide materials for the ASQ-3 *only*. Schools can continue to order other approved screening tools, not provided by the DOE by visiting the publishers' websites.

To confirm which developmental screening tool your site will use, and to order ASQ-3 materials, click [here](#).

EarlyLearn, 3-K for All, and Pre-K for All programs must use *one* of the following screening tools:

- [Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition \(ASQ-3\)](#)
- [Early Screening Inventory, Third Edition \(ESI-3\)](#)
- [Early Screening Inventory, Revised \(ESI-R\)](#), approved for use for the 2020-21 school year only, as this tool is being phased out by the publisher. *Please note, programs may not use ESI-R and ESI-3 in combination.*
- [Brigance Early Childhood Screens III](#)

Family Child Care Networks must use *one* of the following screening tools:

- [Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition \(ASQ-3\)](#)
- [Brigance Early Childhood Screens III](#)

Early Head Start and **Head Start** programs must use *one* of the following screening tool options (please refer to the [Head Start Program Performance Standards](#) for more information about Head Start requirements):

- [Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition \(ASQ-3\)](#) used alongside [Ages and Stages Questionnaires – Social Emotional, Second Edition \(ASQ:SE-2\)](#)
- [Early Screening Inventory, Third Edition \(ESI-3\)](#) or [Early Screening Inventory, Revised \(ESI-R\)](#) used alongside [Ages and Stages Questionnaires – Social Emotional, Second Edition \(ASQ:SE-2\)](#). *Please note, programs may not use ESI-R and ESI-3 in combination.*
- [Brigance Early Childhood Screens III](#)

For more information, please see the [Infohub](#).

For questions, please contact developmentalscreening@schools.nyc.gov.

Why did the DECE make the change to provide ASQ-3 materials instead of ESI-R?

The ASQ-3 can be used with students from birth through age five and provides an opportunity for families to complete the screening questionnaire together. In addition, Pearson, the company that publishes the ESI-R, is phasing out production of the tool.

Benefits of use of ASQ-3, aligned to the [Early Childhood Framework for Quality \(EFQ\)](#) and the [DOE Vision and Mission](#):

- The tool is used in partnership with families and empowers families as the expert on their children. This is particularly important in a trauma-informed response to the impact of COVID-19 (EFQ 4: Promote Families' Roles as Primary Caregivers, Teachers, and Advocates)
- ASQ-3 provides valid translations in 6 languages and allows teachers to leverage available [language supports](#) to support conversations with families (EFQ 1: Respect and Value Differences).
- ASQ-3 can be photocopied and re-printed at the site after the initial purchase, providing more sustainable implementation (EFQ 6: Demonstrate Strategic Leadership).
- ASQ-3 can be used for all ages birth through five and meets local, state and Head Start requirements (EFQ 6: Demonstrate Strategic Leadership).

How does the ASQ-3 work? Who completes the questionnaire?

The ASQ-3 system is composed of questionnaires designed to be completed by a child's family. It supports communication with families and provides an opportunity for teaching teams to build connections with families. It also provides an opportunity for both families and programs to learn more about child development.

Programs and families work together to complete the six steps of the ASQ-3. You can find an infographic for the process [here](#).

1. Teachers choose the right questionnaire for the child's age.
2. Families and teaching teams may work together to complete questionnaires through a combination of classroom-based and home observations, or teachers may give the questionnaire to the family to complete at home and return.
3. Families and/or teaching teams complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire takes about 10-15 minutes to complete.
4. Teaching teams score and interpret results.
5. Teaching teams share results with families.
6. Teaching teams and families discuss next steps.

The administration of the ASQ-3 questionnaire is flexible to fit the needs of your program. Questionnaires may be completed in collaboration with families when families visit your program, or during a home visit, if applicable; completed during a telephone interview with the child's family; or mailed to the family home. Support families with understanding items and marking responses, if needed. Sites may consider using parent coordinators, if available, to support conversations with families about the ASQ-3.

What materials do I need to implement ASQ-3 at my site? What training will the DECE offer?

Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, the DECE will provide ASQ-3 materials to sites by request. Your site will have the opportunity to order ASQ-3 questionnaires in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French, and Vietnamese. To order materials, click [here](#). Please note that the [toys](#) needed for the ASQ-3 are generally accessible and will not be provided by the DECE.

Please note that ASQ-3 materials may be photocopied and reprinted at your program as you wish, year after year, so that your site will not have to wait for material deliveries in the future. Be sure to keep your master copies in a safe place!

In addition, the DECE will provide resources and materials to support the implementation of the ASQ-3, including FAQs, an introductory video, an age administration chart, and a guide to introduce the ASQ-3 to families. The DECE will also offer optional training opportunities for leaders and teaching teams in the early fall. Please look for more information about materials and training opportunities in the coming weeks.

Will we still need to complete screening within the 45-day window if programs continue to implement remote learning in the fall? Will the ASQ-3 materials be delivered on time?

The DECE is working to determine developmental screening guidance for Fall 2020 and is working closely with the publisher of ASQ-3 to ensure timely delivery in late August if school buildings are open. Please look for more information in the coming weeks about developmental screening requirements, and for resources to support your site in preparing to use the ASQ-3.

Please note that ASQ-3 materials may be photocopied and reprinted at your program as you wish, year after year, so that your site will not have to wait for material deliveries in the future. Please be sure to keep your master copies in a safe place!

Can I keep using ESI-R?

While the DECE will no longer provide the ESI-R, it remains an approved developmental screening tool for use for the 2020-21 school year. However, the publisher Pearson is phasing out the ESI-R in favor of the ESI-3, and may only have limited inventory. Please note that you may not use ESI-R and ESI-3 materials in combination.

Why can't I use a combination of ESI-R and ESI-3?

ESI-R and ESI-3 have different norms and validation studies. They should therefore be considered different tools and may not be used in combination.

I want to use ESI-R or ESI-3 but it's only available in English and Spanish.

When selecting a screening tool, programs should consider the needs and backgrounds of the children they are serving and ensure that screenings are implemented using culturally, linguistically and developmentally responsive materials. If your site enrolls many children who speak languages other than English and Spanish, the ESI-R or the ESI-3 may not be the best tool.

Family Child Care Networks, EarlyLearn, 3-K for All and Pre-K for All programs: If the screening is not available in a child's home language, programs may mark a language exception for the child in the Portal. Programs should work to provide the child with language support and instruction.

Early Head Start and Head Start programs: Screenings must be valid and reliable for the population for which they will be used, and must be culturally and linguistically appropriate. If a child speaks a language other than

English, a program must use qualified bilingual staff, contractor, or consultant to assess language skills in English and the home language, and for domains other than language skills in the language that best captures development and skills. Please refer to the [Head Start Program Performance Standards](#) for more information about Early Head Start and Head Start requirements.

I have more questions about ASQ-3. How can I find out more?

The DECE will host a series of information sessions in June 2020 to provide background on the ASQ-3 so that you can determine which screening tool you'd like to use next year. Click [here](#) to register for an info session and to submit any questions in advance.

You can also email developmentalscreening@schools.nyc.gov for more information about ASQ-3 or the DECE screening policies.