

Child Screening & Assessment Overview

WHO?

Four and Five Star centers implement a choice of additional program criteria, along with criteria required at the lower Star levels. Four Star centers choose three additional program criteria and Five Star centers choose five. Annual child learning assessments and evidence-based child developmental screenings or assessments are among the additional program criteria from which Four and Five Star programs can choose to implement.

WHAT?

Child learning assessments:

- can be informal such as making natural observations of child's learning progress or academic performance, collecting data and children's work for portfolios
- formal assessments use assessment tools such as questionnaires and standardized tests, must be valid, reliable and consistent, inclusive and equitable.

Child developmental screenings:

- provide a quick check/snapshot in time of a child's thinking, movement, language, behavior, and emotional development
- help determine if the child is meeting appropriate milestone for their age
- identify the child's strengths and any areas where a child might need more help or practice
- can include short child observations, checklists, and parent questionnaires
- screening results may indicate the need for more in-depth assessments

Child developmental assessments:

- are intended to be more formal and ongoing than screenings
- must be valid, reliable and consistent, inclusive and equitable

It is critical for families to be involved in the screening and/or assessment process, beginning with consent. Individuals performing child screening and assessments must be properly trained to use the instrument. Diagnoses should be made only by fully qualified individuals. It is important to refer families to additional services, when indicated.

WHY?

Learning assessments track progress, helping plan next steps in supporting a child's learning.

Developmental screenings and assessments can alert families to learning and developmental concerns. The sooner potential concerns are identified, the earlier a child can receive appropriate supports and intervention; the earlier the intervention, the better the outcomes for the child.

OKLAHOMA REFERRAL RESOURCES

- Child Guidance Program provides behavioral health, speech and language, child development, and parent education services to families and children birth to age 13. Sliding scale fees are based on income and number of people in the family. Locate your local Child Guidance Center here: https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/health/health2/documents/cgs.cgp.childguidancecounty_map2015.pdf
- Early Head Start provides intensive comprehensive child development and family support services to low income infants and toddlers and their families and to pregnant women and their families. <https://okcaa.org/headstart/programs/>

- Head Start programs promote school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool children from low income families. <https://okacaa.org/headstart/programs/>
- SoonerStart is a program designed to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Locate your county's SoonerStart contact information here: <https://oklahoma.gov/health/family-health/sooner-start.html>

Resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, July 6). *Developmental Milestones Resources for Early Childhood Educators*. Retrieved February 17, 2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/Information-for-Early-Childhood-Educators.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) *Tips for Talking with Parents about Developmental Concerns*. Retrieved February 18, 2022, from https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/tipstalkingparents.pdf
- Head Start/ECLKC. (n.d.) *Developmental Screening for Children Ages Birth to 5*. Retrieved February 18, 2022 from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment/article/developmental-screening-children-ages-birth-5>
- Head Start/ECLKC. (n.d.) *Ongoing Assessment for Children Ages Birth to 5*. Retrieved February 18, 2022 from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment/article/ongoing-assessment-children-ages-birth-5>
- Head Start/ECLKC. (n.d.) *Ongoing Child Assessment Resources for Infants and Toddlers*. Retrieved February 18, 2022 from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment/article/ongoing-child-assessment-resources-infants-toddlers>
- Head Start/ECLKC. (n.d.) *Special Considerations: Developmental Screening of Children Ages Birth to 5 Who are Dual Language Learners*. Retrieved February 18, 2022 from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment/article/special-considerations-developmental-screening-children-ages-birth-5-who-are-dual-language-learners>
- US Department of Health and Human Services. (2014, March). *Birth to 5: Watch me Thrive! A Compendium of Screening Measures for Young Children*. Retrieved February 18, 2022 from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/birth-5-watch-me-thrive-compendium-screening-measures-young-children>

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- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) *Developmental Monitoring and Screening*. Retrieved February 17, 2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/screening.html>
- ScienceDirect (n.d.). *Developmental Assessment*. Retrieved February 17, 2022, from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/psychology/developmental-assessment#:~:text=Examples%20of%20norm%2Dreferenced%20assessments,average%20score%20of%20children%20the>