



# Developmental Screening: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This FAQ document is intended for early learning and development programs participating in Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

## Q: What are the developmental screening requirements for Oregon's QRIS?

**A:** Oregon's QRIS standards require that a developmental screening be conducted as part of the ongoing services offered by programs to support children's learning and development. This requirement is at the 3 Star level in the Learning and Development domain, Standard 9:

QRIS Standard LD9: The program uses information from screening and assessment to measure children's learning and development in order to make referrals and do program planning.

Three Star Indicator: A developmental screening, using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3), is conducted on each child within 45 days of when the child enters the program and on an annual basis in order to refer children for specialized assessment when indicated. Note: This indicator is not applicable for school-age children.

Evidence: 1) Program policy on conducting screening and referring children for additional, specialized assessment that addresses the criteria above and 2) Copy of one completed ASQ-3 screening with child's name removed.

For more information regarding this QRIS standard, please contact:

The Center on Early Learning at The Teaching Research Institute, WOU at 1-877-768-8290 , e-mail: [qrishelp@wou.edu](mailto:qrishelp@wou.edu) or visit the QRIS website at <http://teachingresearchinstitute.org/projects/qrisk>

## Q: Does “a developmental screening conducted on each child” mean that I (the child care program/provider) need to fill out the ASQ-3?

**A:** **No.** The ASQ-3 is a parent-completed questionnaire. As a provider or program, you have an important role in engaging families, discussing the importance of developmental screening, supporting the parent to complete the ASQ-3, discussing screening results and helping families connect to resources if a concern is identified.

For more information on how to support parents to screen their child using the free online Oregon Screening Project site, [www.asqoregon.com](http://www.asqoregon.com) see the document, Using This Site Together With Parents, posted on the Child Care Providers Tool Kit section.

For more information on supporting parents to complete the ASQ-3 using the paper questionnaires, see sections related to screening in educational settings in Chapter 9 from the ASQ-3 User's Guide.

**Q:** I participate in the QRIS. Does every child in my program have to be screened?

**A:** **No.** There are a few reasons why it may not be necessary for a child to be screened. For example:

A parent informs you that their child was recently screened and that they do not want to screen them again. In this case, you should ask the parent for a copy of the ASQ-3 to keep on file and offer assistance in making any needed referrals.

A child was recently identified as having a developmental delay and is receiving services through Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education. In this case, you should ask the parent for a copy of the child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), which provides important information for supporting the child within your program. You may also want to offer your participation in future IFSP development, as your perspective may offer valuable input.

**Q:** What should I do if a parent does not want to participate in developmental screening?

**A:** In this case you should honor the parent's decision. You should not screen the child yourself. The most important thing you can do with parents is to develop a close working relationship and trust. You may want to ask the parent why they do not want to have their child screened so that you understand the barriers. You can also encourage the parent to explore the [www.asqoregon.com](http://www.asqoregon.com) website on their own and check back with them in a few weeks or months.

**Q:** Do I need to obtain consent from parents?

**A:** Since the ASQ-3 is a parent-completed tool, parental willingness to participate in developmental screening implies their consent to complete an ASQ-3 and share results with you. However, you should inform your parents about your program's universal developmental screening policy. This can be done through a parent letter or in your parent handbook, for example.

For more information, see the Informing Parents and Obtaining Consent to Screen document posted on the Child Care Providers Tool Kit section of [www.asqoregon.com](http://www.asqoregon.com)

**Q:** What do I do with completed ASQs? Do I need to send them somewhere?

**A:** The QRIS Portfolio does require that one copy of a completed ASQ-3 (with the child's name removed) be submitted as evidence of use. Otherwise, you do not need to send the completed ASQs to the state or QRIS program for any reason.

It is recommended that both the program and family keep a copy of the completed ASQ-3 for your records. It is also strongly recommended that families share a copy of the completed ASQ-3 with their child's primary healthcare provider (doctor or nurse practitioner) as well.

It is important to remember that screening information is confidential. You should never share a child's screening information without a parent's consent.

**Q:** What should I do if the screening indicates a possible delay or someone has a concern about the child's development?

**A:** If a screening indicates there may be a delay or there are any concerns identified, you should discuss next steps with the child's family. Parents take the lead on decisions about next steps. Encourage the family to meet with their child's primary healthcare provider and to share a copy of the completed ASQ-3.

If the family is interested in a referral to Early Intervention (EI)/Early Childhood Special Education (ESCE), anyone can place the referral with the family's consent (including self-referral by parents). It is recommended to share ASQ-3 results with EI/ECSE when making a referral (with parent consent). See the brochure, *Do You Have Concerns?*, for more information about these free services for all Oregon families.

**Q:** What do I do if the screening indicates the need for further evaluation (such as a referral to Early Intervention), but the parents refuse?

**A:** You should honor the parent's choice. There are many reasons a parent may not be ready to take the next step to refer their child to Early Intervention or other services. The most important thing you can do with parents is to develop a close working relationship and trust. You should encourage the family to talk to the child's primary healthcare provider about the screening results. You can also offer screening or referral to the parent again in a few months.

## How do I document my screening program to meet QRIS requirements?

 Documentation is required at the 3 Star level and includes:

1) Program policy on conducting screening and referring children for additional, specialized assessment that addresses that screening occurs within 45 days of enrollment and annually, and that the program will offer referrals/resources to parents if the ASQ-3 or parents indicate concerns [the policy needs to be provided in the context of a manual, such as a parent handbook or a staff handbook], and

2) Copy of one completed ASQ-3 screening tool with child's name and other personal identifying information removed.

## Where can I get ASQ-3 screening materials?

 If you have internet access, we recommend using the online version, the ASQ Oregon. It's free for families and providers and is ready to access now at [www.asqoregon.com](http://www.asqoregon.com). Technical assistance is available and further enhancements are coming in the next year.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can contact your local CCR&R to learn about available resources. In addition, ASQ-3 materials can be purchased directly from the publisher. For more information go to: <http://agesandstages.com/how-to-order/>

For all additional questions regarding the QRIS and developmental screening, please contact The Center on Early Learning at The Teaching Research Institute, WOU at 1-877-768-8290 , e-mail: [qrishelp@wou.edu](mailto:qrishelp@wou.edu) or visit the QRIS website at <http://teachingresearchinstitute.org/projects/qrisc>

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This document was created in coordination with partners involved with developmental screening training at the Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning Division/Oregon Department of Education, and University of Oregon.