

Pathways to Developmental Screening - Department of Education

Developmental screening is a way of taking a closer look at a child's development. In Delaware, programs that are a part of the Department of Education (DOE), Division of Public Health (DPH), and local hospital systems may screen a child. This table takes a closer look at pathways to developmental screening across DOE programs.

What screening tools are used across DOE programs?

Licensed Child Care and State Funded Early Care & Education Programs	Home Visiting (DOE)	Birth to Three (B23) Early Intervention Program	School Districts
Screening Tool Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)	Screening Tool Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)	Screening Tool Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)	Screening Tool Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)
Frequency Following Title 14, Chapter 30A. , children are screened upon enrollment and at least once annually during enrollment. Children may be screened more often if needed.	Frequency The Parents as Teachers (PAT) Essential Requirement states that developmental screening should be done within 90 days of enrollment or birth (if enrolled prenatally). Afterwards, a screening is performed annually each program year.	Frequency There is no set frequency for screenings through B23. Instead, B23 follows a Child Find responsibility under IDEA Part C.	Frequency Children that attend the school district's certified program are screened upon enrollment and at least once annually during enrollment. Children may be screened more often if needed.

Why do these programs screen?

Engaging in regular developmental screenings helps to identify and understand when a child may have a delay in one or more areas of development. A delay in a skill area means that a child is having difficulty in that area as compared to what is expected for their age. This is the **first step** in determining if a child may need services to support them with those areas of need. It is important to get children supports and services **as early as possible**, when their brain is still developing. The sooner the better for receiving extra support. These extra supports, called **early intervention services**, are very helpful for supporting children's growth and development.