

Pathways to Developmental Screening - Division of Public Health

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 DPH programs.

What screening tools are used across DPH programs?

Physicians (e.g., pediatricians & family doctors)	Healthy Families Delaware (i.e., Home Visiting)	Books, Balls & Blocks (BBB)
Screening Tool Pediatric offices will typically use one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDSOnline) 2. Survey of Well-being of Young Children (SWYC) 3. Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) 4. Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) 	Screening Tool Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)	Screening Tool Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)
Frequency Pediatric offices follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Bright Futures recommendations for periodicity for screening.	Frequency Children enrolled in the DPH Home Visiting program (i.e., Healthy Families Delaware) receive a parent-led developmental screening according to the schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).	Frequency Books, Balls & Blocks hosts free family events for anyone living in Delaware and caring for a child aged 5 years or younger. Parents can complete a developmental screening during these events. BBB is part of Delaware's Help Me Grow System Program. Visit https://dethrives.com/programs/books-balls-and-blocks to view a schedule of upcoming BBB events.

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.

