Developmental Screening Instruments

“Screening is a brief procedure designed to identify children who should receive more intensive diagnosis or assessment and to help children at risk to receive intervention services as soon as possible” (Cantu, 2004, p. 45). Radecki, et. al (2011) noted from the National Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort that at 24 months of age, nearly 14% of children have developmental delays that are likely to make them eligible for early intervention services as specified in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Therefore, results from developmental screening tools will assist early childhood professionals in being able to recognize when a child potentially needs additional services or support and that a more comprehensive assessment is warranted.

Developmental screening tools indicate the ages of children it is appropriate to use with, as each are aligned with children’s typical developmental stages across various domains. “Domains refer to those categories of function and performance such as gross motor, fine motor, communication (receptive and expressive), adaptive behavior, cognition and personal/social skills” (Cantu, 2004, p. 45). The developer of the screening tools also provide instructions as to when screenings should be administered, as well as when to administer follow-up rescreens (i.e. initial screenings in early school year or within a certain amount of days after children being school). Screenings are typically brief (about 30 minutes or less). In summary, developmental screenings for preschool-age children can provide early childhood professionals with a quick snapshot of a child’s developmental abilities and skills to help indicate whether further evaluation is needed to identify potential challenges that might necessitate interventions or special education services.

1. **ESI-R (Early Screening Inventory Revised)** – The ESI-R is a developmental screening tool administered by teachers to children between ages 36 months – 71 months. The ESI-R covers the following domains: visual motor/adaptive, language and cognition, and gross motor skills. The screening tool is administered to children individually and separate forms are used for children ages 36 months – 53 months (ESI-P) and for children ages 54 months – 71 months. Each form aligns with and addresses indicators that are
developmentally appropriate for each age group. NJDOE recommends the use of *ESI-R* for preschool-aged children in NJDOE funded preschool programs.


2. *Ages & Stages Questionnaire* – ASQ is a set of questionnaires that are designed to be completed by parents and caregivers of children. Questionnaires address five developmental areas, including communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving and personal-social. The questionnaires are individualized for use according to child’s age (available for children between 1-66 months). Once a parent or caregiver has finished completing the questionnaire, a teacher will evaluate and share the results with the family. The questionnaires for families to fill out take about 10-15 minutes and 2-3 minutes for teachers to score out. The developer provides formal training in administration of the tool.


3. *Brigance Screening* – The Brigance Screening tool screens children from birth – 90 months and can be administered by the classroom teacher. Domains covered in this screening tool include Spatial Skills and Knowledge, Understanding and Reading, and Expressive Language. The Brigance Screening can identify children that are of typical, advanced or delayed development. Data is collected through observation forms, data sheets and rating forms. A screening will typically take approximately 15 minutes to administer and one to two minutes to score.

The *Brigance* can be ordered here:

References
