



GROW



PARENT FACT SHEET

FREE early childhood screening for Rochester children



What is “screening?”

Early childhood screening is a simple and quick check of how children are growing and developing. A set of simple tools helps parents and teachers find out what children need to reach their fullest potential. In addition to identifying children’s skills and strengths, screening finds possible health or learning concerns. When concerns are identified, children can get the help they need before they start prekindergarten.



Why would my child need to be screened – we go to the doctor?

We partner with your pediatrician to support your child’s development. The early childhood years from birth to kindergarten are an important time of rapid growth and learning for young children. We know you want to make sure your child has what he/she needs for healthy development. Since each child is unique, it may be difficult to know if your child is reaching developmental milestones. These screenings are done in addition to the annual exam done by your child’s doctor.



Where is the screening completed?

With your permission, **free** early childhood screening is completed at your child’s early childhood center. This is convenient for you and provides a fun and familiar setting for your child. A trained professional and your child’s teacher will check:

- Vision
- Hearing
- Thinking, language, and communication skills
- Social and emotional development
- Dental
- Movement skills



How much does this cost?

There is *no charge* to you for this service.



What happens after my child is screened?

If the screening shows that your child might need help in a particular area, the early childhood center director or teacher will meet with you to make recommendations and provide information regarding programs and resources available in the community. Because this is done in partnership with your pediatrician, with your permission, the screening results will be shared with him/her.

Early childhood screening is important for all children. Below are a few websites you may wish to review. They provide user-friendly checklists, tips and activities to promote healthy early childhood development.

**Early Childhood Development
Administration for Children & Families
Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive – Families**

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/child-health-development/watch-me-thrive/families
www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/screening_passport.pdf

**CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Learn the Signs. Act Early.**

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/screening.html
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/developmentalscreening.pdf
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/freematerials.html
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/help_pdfs/cdc_helpchild_combined.pdf
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/help_pdfs/cdc_talktodoctor.pdf
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/positiveparenting/index.html

**healthychildren.org
American Academy of Pediatrics**

www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/preschool/Pages/Developmental-Milestones-3-to-4-Year-Olds.aspx
www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/preschool/Pages/default.aspx

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