Developmental Screening

What is Developmental Screening?

A developmental screening is a formal way of looking at how a child is developing. It may be a questionnaire or checklist that a teacher or family member completes, or it may be a list of tasks the child is asked to do. It helps professionals consider what a child can do compared with other children the same age. A developmental screening can identify whether further evaluation is needed. Children who show signs of potential delays should be referred for a developmental evaluation by a trained diagnostician. If a child is diagnosed with a delay, therapeutic services are available.

Better Beginnings and Developmental Screening

- BB Levels 2-6: All children birth to kindergarten shall have an annual developmental screening.
- During your program review, the BAS assessor will ask to see a sample of developmental screenings for children from birth-kindergarten. This will be documented on the **Program Review Checklist** that will be emailed to you after your program review. Upload this document with your application to the ELS portal.

Minimum Licensing Requirements Section 1400 states that all child care facilities are required by IDEA to refer a child with any suspected delays or disabilities to the appropriate lead agency (as determined by the child's age). See resources below.

Examples of Developmental Screening Tools

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3)
- Brigance
- Early Screening Inventory-3

For more information on Developmental Screenings go to Learn the Signs, Act Early at: https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html

- For help finding screening tools and trainings, contact your local Child Care Aware office.
- To refer a child for further developmental evaluation contact, one of the following agencies.
  - Child Find https://www.archildfind.org/
  - Educational Cooperatives (ages 3-5) https://adedata.arkansas.gov/ARK12/coop
  - First Connections (birth-3) https://dhs.arkansas.gov/dds/firstconnectionsweb/#fc-home