

# Screening: Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) What is the purpose of Infant/Toddler and Pre-School screenings?  
Screenings assess children in order to provide information to parents regarding their child's development. The screening results indicate a child's strengths and weaknesses. The screenings assist in identifying children who would benefit by attending Early Childhood or Pre-K Programs that are offered by their local school district.
- 2) Who can be screened?  
Children between 4 months and six years of age can be screened. Children who are less than thirty four months old are screened via a questionnaire. Children who are at least thirty four months old and less than six years old are eligible to participate in a Pre-K screening.
- 3) What is involved in a screening?  
Infants and Toddlers are screened through the use of a questionnaire. Pre-school children are given the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities in three basic skill areas. Screening usually takes 45 min. to 1 hr.
- 4) What areas are screened?  
Infant/Toddler The questionnaire consists of a series of questions that focus on developmental milestones. Pre-school Screenings focus on these areas: Motor, Concepts, and Language. Vision and hearing may also be included in screenings.
- 5) What if speech is my only concern?  
If speech is the only area of concern, and you see no need to screen other areas, you should contact the speech pathologist in your local elementary school to request a speech only screening.
- 6) How can I request a screening for my child?  
Parents of children younger than thirty four months of age should contact OCEC to request a questionnaire. Except during Mass Spring Screenings (see below), parents of children thirty four months old or older should call the Ogle County Educational Cooperative to request an appointment.
- 7) How can I find out when Spring Screenings are being held?  
Mass Spring Screenings are held each year between February and April. As soon as the screening schedule has been set, it is posted on the OCEC website. Parents may call their local elementary school or the OCEC to ask for date, time and locations. Area Pre-schools will also have this information. You can make an appointment for a spring screenings by calling your local elementary school.
- 8) What about parents who speak only Spanish?  
Call the OCEC for the name and phone number of someone who can help them.
- 9) What happens after my child is screened?  
Infant/Toddlers: After the questionnaire has been completed, it is returned to OCEC for scoring. After scoring, results are mailed to parents. If it appears that the child may not be meeting

developmental milestones compared to other children of the same age, parents will be advised who to contact for further testing.

Pre-School children: Written results are discussed with parents at the screening. If further evaluation is not indicated, copy of the screening results is passed along to elementary school Pre-K teachers so they can decide eligibility for their school's Pre-K Program. If further evaluation is indicated, parents are contacted to set up a Case Study Evaluation.

10) What is the purpose of a Case Study Evaluation?

This evaluation determines eligibility for special education services which are provided by the school district in an Early Childhood Program.

11) What if my child does not need further evaluation?

If based on the screening, further evaluation is not required, screening results are sent to the appropriate public school Pre-K teacher. The school then decides if a child is eligible for enrollment in their Pre-K class. Pre-K teachers are responsible for notifying parents regarding eligibility for, and potential placement in, the public school Pre-K Program. ***OCEC is not involved in the Pre-K eligibility decision process, nor is OCEC notified which students have qualified for placement in Pre-K.***

12) What's the difference between an Early Childhood and the Pre-K program in the public school?

Early Childhood is a special education program for children who are developmentally behind other children of the same age. Pre-K is a general education program for children who have risk factors other than developmental issues. Eligibility and placement in Early Childhood programs is based upon criteria set by ISBE and the federal government, not by school districts. Eligibility requirements and placement in public Pre-K programs is decided by each school district.