

# Introducing to Parents

Parents will be more comfortable and engaged in screening when they understand what it's for and how it works. Below are 5 key areas to cover with parents when you introduce ASQ-3 and ask them to participate.

## 1. Share the purpose of screening with parents.

Parents may worry about participating in a screening program. Some may be new to the idea; others might fear that their child will be labeled. Here are some things you can say:

- "ASQ-3 provides a quick check of your child's development."
- "Your answers will show your child's strengths and any areas in which your child may need more help or practice."
- "The information you provide will be helpful in determining whether your child needs further assessment."

## 2. Give parents guidance and make them feel prepared to successfully complete a screening.

Completing the ASQ-3 questionnaire is simple but parents doing it for the first time will appreciate these tips. Review *Important Points to Remember* on the questionnaire:

- "Try each activity with your child before you mark a response."
- "Make this a game that's fun for you and your child."
- "Make sure your child is rested and fed."

## 3. Explain how ASQ-3 works.

Describe the five developmental areas of ASQ-3, the items within these areas, and the Overall section. You might say:

- "Your child may be able to do some, but not all, of the items."
- "Here are the five areas of development we'll look at on the ASQ-3":
  1. "Communication: Your child's language skills, both what your child understands and what he or she can say."
  2. "Gross Motor: How your child uses his or her arms and legs and other large muscles for sitting, crawling, walking, running, and other activities."
  3. "Fine Motor: Your child's hand and finger movement and coordination."
  4. "Problem Solving: How your child plays with toys and solves problems."
  5. "Personal-Social: Your child's self-help skills and interactions with others."
- "The Overall section asks questions about your child's overall development and about any concerns you may have."

## 4. Review the three response options on ASQ-3 questionnaires and what they mean.

The ASQ-3 questionnaire asks parents to choose one of three possible answers. Here is a simple way to explain them.

- "Yes means that your child is performing the skill."
- "Sometimes says that your child is just beginning to perform the skill or does it on occasion."
- "Not yet indicates that your child is not yet performing the skill."

## 5. Tell parents that you'll share the results with them.

Let parents know that you'll be in touch to share the results. Give them a timeframe.

Adapted from *ASQ-3™ User's Guide* by Jane Squires, Ph.D., Elizabeth Twombly, M.S., Diane Bricker, Ph.D., & LaWanda Potter, M.S. ©2009 Brookes Publishing. All rights reserved.