

# 6 Tips for Stress-Free Fall Screenings

## Adopt these strategies for a smoother, more productive ASQ process

Heading back to school? This may mean you're diving back into ASQ® screenings along with your other new-school-year to-dos.

While important, fall screenings do come at a time that can be overwhelming for both parents and professionals. Ease back in with six simple strategies that will make the ASQ process easier for everyone.

### 1. Consider getting a later start.

Eager to learn more about their students and cross a big item off their lists, lots of teachers jump into fall screenings right away. Remember that questionnaires can easily be forgotten among the excitement of the new school year—and lost in all the paperwork that comes with it.

Some programs have found that waiting three weeks to send home questionnaires results in much higher completion rates. Another bonus: it gives you more time to effectively introduce ASQ to parents and caregivers (see tip #2!).

### 2. Introduce questionnaires clearly.

Not everyone is familiar with ASQ and developmental screening. Take time to clearly convey the importance of both and specifically how the questionnaires work, what data is collected, and how that data is used.

If possible, begin communicating before you share the questionnaires and even consider hosting an information night where you can share information and answer questions in-person. Here are some resources to get you started:

- [Article: How to Introduce the Questionnaires](#)  
Tips for communicating in a way that eases concerns and increases completion rates.
- [Article: Helping Parents Understand the Benefits of Developmental Screening](#)  
Outlines the three things every parent or caregiver should know.
- [Parents' Guide to ASQ Screening](#)  
The basics of ASQ screening in a Q&A style, featuring links to activity handouts and other resources. Great for first-time families, [also available in Spanish](#).
- [ASQ Parent Resources](#)  
Comprehensive collection of send-home and other materials, including a welcome letter, consent form, and *What is ASQ®-3?* and *What is ASQ®:SE-2?* tips sheets. Requires free registration to ASQ website.



A well-planned introduction to ASQ can help make your screening program more effective and productive!

### 3. Send reminders about questionnaire due dates.

It's a busy time of year. Be sure to remind parents of when they need to return completed questionnaires. If you haven't already grabbed some handy reminder post-it notes from an ASQ/Brookes Publishing booth in the past year, [print and cut out your own](#) and then attach to each questionnaire. It's also worth giving a little nudge with an email or text.

### 4. Tell parents when they can expect results.

Parents are always interested in their child's development, so share results in a timely fashion. And, however you plan to share those results—whether it's during a parent-teacher conference or during back-to-school night—let families know what to expect, and when. Here are a few resources to help you prepare:

- [Article: Always Prepare Before You Share ASQ Screening Results](#)  
Tips and resources for more productive parent meetings.
- [Article: Success After Screening](#)  
Best practices for better follow-up, including sharing results and initiating referrals.
- [Tip Sheet: Sharing ASQ Screening Results with Families](#)  
Practical tips for preparing for a discussion with parents.

### 5. Track results over time.

You'll save time and stress later by deciding in advance how you plan to track each child's results over time. One simple way is to use a [child monitoring sheet](#), which lets you track whether scores are above or below the cutoff or in the monitoring zone for each developmental area. Sheets are available in several languages for both ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2.

### 6. Stay positive.

Sure, beginning-of-the-year screening can up your stress levels, but it's important to remember that the information you gain by screening with ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 is a major contributor to the success and well-being of the children in your program. Be positive, flexible, and organized and you're sure to have a successful year.

***What back-to-school screening strategies keep you sane and organized?  
Share your tips with us [here](#). We'd love to hear from you!***

*Originally Published August 2019*

This article is reprinted from our FREE ASQ e-newsletter.  
Sign up at <http://bit.ly/ASQNews>