



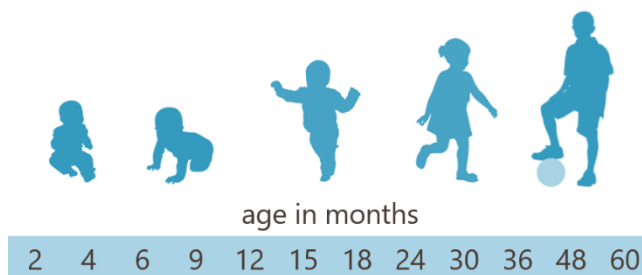
Supporting your Child through Developmental Screening from Birth to Age Five

The Tribal Early Childhood Research Center (TRC) visited urban, rural and reservation American Indian and Alaska Native communities to talk with families of young children and early childhood professionals (home visitors, teachers, and health care providers).

The information below is based on what we learned from those conversations.

Developmental screening

- is an **opportunity to learn** about your child's physical, language, behavioral, and social-emotional development,
- involves you answering a **questionnaire about your child**,
- **might involve your child being observed** by an early childhood professional, and
- **occurs regularly from birth to age five** to check in on a child's development over time.



Screening can show areas where your child is doing well so you can **celebrate growth** and areas where your child may need help so you can work with others to **find additional support**.

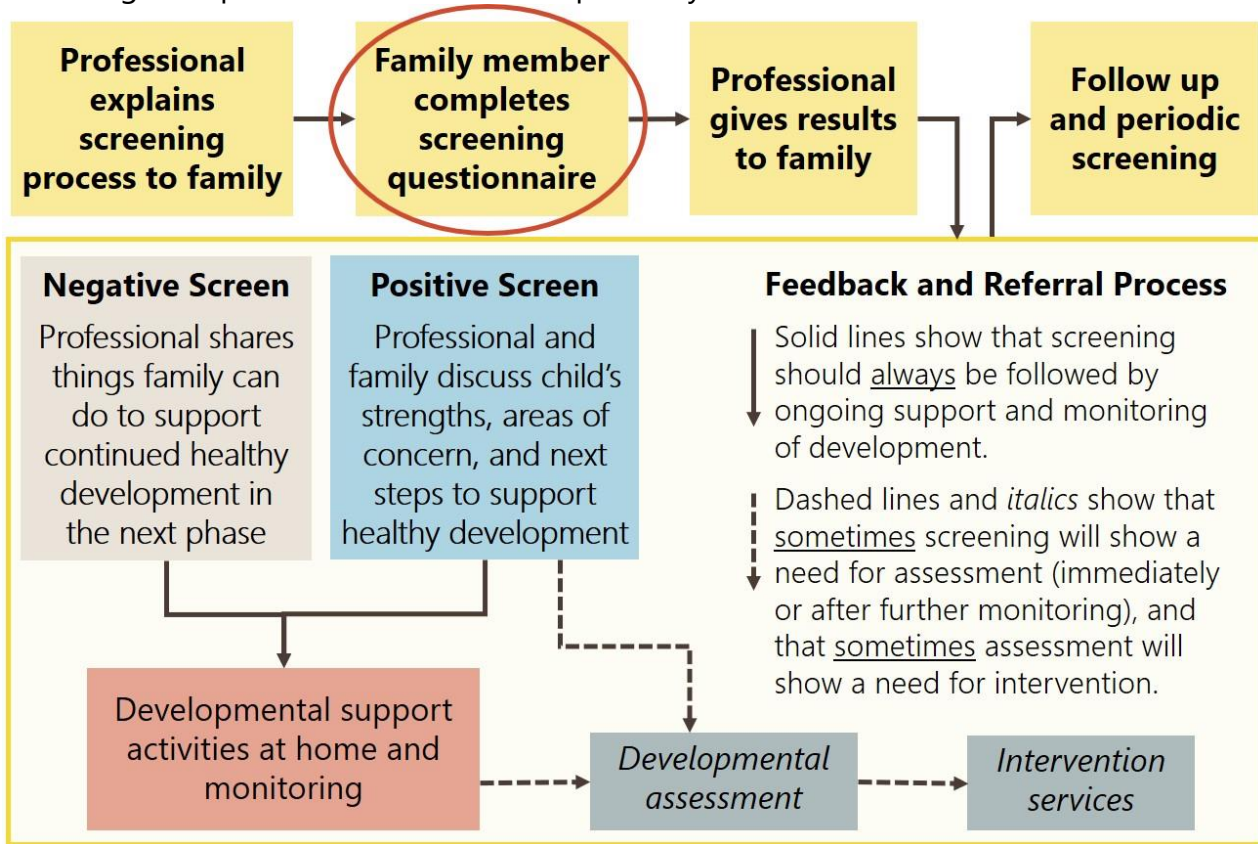
Tips for successful screening

- Talk with your home visitor, child's teacher, or health care provider regularly about your child. Ask any questions you have about your child's behavior and development. Developmental screening is only one part of understanding your child's development.
- If a developmental screener asks if your child can do something, and you are unsure, try the task or activity with your child before you answer. Sometimes you may not have had the chance to observe a skill.
- When you answer screening questions, think about how your child behaves or acts when they are well-rested and healthy.
- Remember that it is normal for your child to be able to do things sometimes but not always, or in one place but not another as they are growing.
- After a developmental screening, ask for 1) the screening results, 2) what you can expect in the coming months, and 3) what you can do with your child to support their development.

NOTE: This resource is a living document that the TRC is continually working to improve. Please email tribalearlychildhood@cuanschutz.edu with comments, questions, or suggestions.

What can I expect during the screening process?

Completing a developmental screening questionnaire (circled below) is just one of several steps in the screening process. You will work with your home visitor, your child's teacher, or your health care provider through the process. Ask them for help when you need it.



Important things to remember about screening



Screening questionnaires and observations are not tests that your child will pass or fail. They are designed to help you know how to best support your child's growth and development.



Some screening questions may be hard to answer. Answer as best you can based on what you know about your child. If you are still unsure, talk with your child's teacher, home visitor, or health care provider.



You may be worried about screening because of past experiences, concerns about labeling, or fear of the results. It is reasonable that you want to protect your child and do what is best for them. Screening can help you do that by identifying your child's needs and helping early childhood professionals connect you and your child to additional support.

Additional resources on developmental screening

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Learn the Signs. Act Early. | <https://tinyurl.com/y4drlttt>
 - How to Get Help for Your Child Tip Sheet | <https://tinyurl.com/y2dgsb5t>
- ZERO to THREE: Age-based Tips from Birth to 36 Months | <https://tinyurl.com/y7ngezns>