



Developmental Screening Frequently Asked Questions

Who attends the screening?

The child and their parent or legal guardian generally attend. If the parent or legal guardian wants someone else to bring their child, they must complete our screening permission form and send it with the caregiver. No child can be screened without our authorized signed Permission for Screening form.

Where will the screening take place?

Screenings are by appointment only and take place in a variety of locations throughout the county. We have screenings sites at Blake Academy in Lakeland, Jean O'Dell Learning Center in Bartow, and the N.E. Area Exceptional Student Education office in Lake Alfred.

How long will it take?

The length of time varies, depending on the age of the child and other factors. Typically, the screening combined with the conference with parent and paperwork will last from 45-60 minutes.

Is there a cost for the screening?

There is no charge, regardless of family income. Child Find screenings are provided as a free service of the public school system for children and their families.

What happens during the screening?

A member of the screening team will greet the family. The parent will be asked to sign permission for screening and provide a social history as well as other pertinent information regarding the child. While this is being completed, the child is escorted into a screening room. A developmental screening is conducted along with speech, hearing, and vision. The screening format is generally play-based and fun for the child.

What should I tell my child to prepare him/her for the screening?

Tell your child that he/she will be playing games and describe the screening as a fun event. Do not use words such as, "test", "doctor" or other expressions that may cause stress.

When will I get results?

The results are discussed with the parent/guardian immediately following the screening. Information is kept confidential and never shared without the written permission of the parent/guardian.

What happens if my child fails the screening?

If your child scores significantly below his/her age level, further diagnostic testing may be recommended. After consulting with the parent, a date for further evaluation will be determined and further evaluation(s) completed upon parent consent.