

## Section 8 Screening Tools

### Screening Tools and Programs used in Ontario

#### Things to consider before screening

Before using a screening tool, a professional must consider:

- ◆ Are you qualified to administer this screen?
- ◆ Do you know how to follow up after screening, should a concern be identified?
- ◆ What level of confidentiality will be used when screening? How will this level of confidentiality be ensured?
- ◆ Where and when will the screening take place?
- ◆ Are there any cultural implications to consider when applying the screening? Please see “Cultural Sensitivity When Working with Families” in section 2 and section 6 of this guide.
- ◆ Do you know how to discuss sensitive issues with families related to using the screening tool and reporting the results? Please refer to “How to talk with parents about sensitive issues” in section 6 of this guide.
- ◆ Is the screening tool valid, reliable and accurate?
- ◆ Is it free of bias and is it non-discriminatory?
- ◆ Is it easy to administer?
- ◆ Is it cost-effective



Regardless of the results of screening or assessment, children and families should be assisted in accessing appropriate community supports, resources and information.

Some of the tools listed in the table are restricted to use by professionals who have specific training and qualifications.

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Tool	Focus	Age Range	General Description
<p>AIMS - Alberta Infant Motor Scale</p> <p>Available in English</p>	Motor Development	Infants between 4 and 18 months	Identification of motor delays in four positions: supine, prone, sitting and standing
<p>ASQ - Ages and Stages Questionnaire®</p> <p>Available in English, French, some ages available in Korean</p>	<p>Communication</p> <p>Gross Motor</p> <p>Fine Motor</p> <p>Problem-Solving</p> <p>Personal Social Skills</p>	4 months - 60 months	<p>The ASQ can be use for two purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ as a level screening tool to identify infants and children that may require further assessment</li> <li>♦ as a monitoring tool to gauge the development of children who are at risk for developmental disabilities or delays</li> </ul>
<p>Blind -Low Vision Early Intervention Program</p>	Vision	Birth to Grade 1	<p>The purpose is to identify children who are not meeting developmental milestones that mark early vision development and refer them for further assessment by a physician or licensed optometrist before their first birthday. If any vision concerns are present the child should be seen as soon as possible.</p> <p><a href="http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/blindnesslowvision/index.aspx">www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/blindnesslowvision/index.aspx</a></p>
<p>CHAT - Checklist for Autism in Toddlers</p>	Autistic Spectrum Disorders	18 - 24 months	<p>To detect children at risk for social communication disorders and autistic spectrum disorders.</p> <p><a href="http://www.autismcanada.org/pdfs/chatscreeningtool.pdf">www.autismcanada.org/pdfs/chatscreeningtool.pdf</a></p>
<p>M-CHAT - Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers</p> <p>Available in English, Spanish</p>	Language and Communication	6 months to 4 years	<p>A checklist developed by Toronto Public Health Speech and Language Services.</p> <p>Primary caregivers can use this checklist to help them decide if their child needs help with speech and language.</p> <p><a href="http://www.tpsls.on.ca/psl/checklist.htm">www.tpsls.on.ca/psl/checklist.htm</a></p>
<p>Dental Screening</p>	Dental and Oral Health	6 months to 18 years	Dental screening is a visual inspection by a dental hygienist to see if an obvious dental condition exists and to identify children at risk for Early Childhood Tooth Decay.

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Dental Screening Tool  Available in English	Dental and Oral Health	18 - 36 months	Early identification of children at risk for or having dental caries.  To help monitor a child's dental development. It also provides dental care and hygiene tips.
Infant Hearing Program	Hearing  Uses DPOAE - Automated Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions or  AABR - Automated Auditory Brainstem Response	Birth to 4 months	To identify significant hearing loss in neonatal and infant population. Children who score "refer" on the second newborn screen are sent to audiology (at no charge) for diagnostics. Children identified as having risk factors for hearing loss are monitored up to 30 months.  <a href="http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/hearing/index.aspx">www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/hearing/index.aspx</a>
E.R.I.K. - Early Referral Identification Kit  Available in English	Speech, language and early literacy (including motor speech, articulation, stuttering and voice disorders or delays)  Fine and gross motor skills  Cognitive skills  Social skills  Feeding skills  Sensory development	6 months to 4 years	A developmental screening tool to promote early identification of children at risk for developmental delays. If a child is identified a referral to Early Intervention Services, Preschool Speech and Language Program and other services is warranted.  <a href="http://www.beyond-words.org">www.beyond-words.org</a>
EPDS - Edinburgh Post Partum Depression Scale	Post Partum Mood Disorders (PPMD) and/or depression in pregnancy	Prenatal and postnatal mothers, fathers, adoptive parents, and parents of toddlers	Widely used scale to screen and identify women experiencing postpartum depression and anxiety as well as depression during pregnancy  <a href="http://www.lifewithnewbaby.ca/resources/EPDS_checklist_eng.pdf">www.lifewithnewbaby.ca/resources/EPDS_checklist_eng.pdf</a>

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<p>NDDS - Nipissing District Developmental Screen</p> <p>Available in English, French and some other languages</p>	<p>Cognitive skills</p> <p>Communication, speech and language</p> <p>Fine and gross motor skills</p> <p>Hearing</p> <p>Social/emotional skills</p> <p>Self-help skills</p> <p>Vision</p>	1 months - 6 years	<p>NDDS is a universal, developmental, parent-completed checklist designed that covers vision, hearing, and communication, gross and fine motor, cognitive, social/emotional, and self-help. The tool assists parents, health care and child care professionals with a convenient and easy-to-use method of recording the development and progress of infants and children within certain age groupings.</p> <p>The screens coincide with immunization schedules as well as key developmental stages up to age six and are the preferred parent tool for use at the enhanced 18-months well baby visit.</p> <p>Age appropriate activities accompany the screens and are designed to promote overall development.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ndds.ca">www.ndds.ca</a></p>
<p>Ontario Newborn Screening Program</p> <p>Fact sheets available in English, French and nine other languages</p>	<p>Health Using the Newborn Screening Test</p>	1 - 7 days	<p>Ontario Newborn Screening Program (ONSP) offers screening for serious diseases to all babies born in Ontario. Early identification of these diseases allows treatment that may prevent growth problems, health problems, mental retardation, and sudden infant death. Currently the tool screens for 25 different diseases.</p> <p>Please see the website for detailed information.</p> <p><a href="http://www.newbornscreening.on.ca">www.newbornscreening.on.ca</a></p>
<p>NutriSTEP® - Nutrition Screening Tool for Every Preschooler</p> <p>Available in English, French some other languages</p>	<p>Nutrition</p> <p>Feeding and Swallowing</p>	3 - 5 years	<p>To identify preschool children at nutritional risk. Topics include: food and nutrient intake; physical growth; developmental and physical capabilities; physical activity; family food and eating preferences; parental concerns; nutrition knowledge, beliefs and practices; food security and the feeding environment. Parents of children identified as at risk should to talk a registered dietitian or their child's doctor</p> <p><a href="http://www.nutristep.ca">www.nutristep.ca</a></p>

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<p>Parkyn Tool</p> <p>Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) postpartum screening tool</p> <p>Available in English</p>	<p>Developmental factors</p> <p>Congenital or acquired health challenges, family health and social factors</p>	<p>Postpartum women and infants</p>	<p>As part of HBHC program, newborns and their families are screened for risk factors associated with poor child developmental outcomes. The families and newborns at risk can be followed up by a public health nurse for further assessment. The purpose of the screen is to identify families who may benefit from more comprehensive home visiting services.</p>
<p>REEL-3 - Receptive, Expressive, Emergent Language Test - Third Edition</p> <p>Available in English</p>	<p>Language</p>	<p>Birth to 3 years</p>	<p>Screens receptive language (the child's language comprehension) and expressive language (the child's verbal communication).</p>
<p>Rourke Baby Record</p> <p>Available in English and French</p>	<p>Health and Development</p>	<p>Birth to 5 years</p>	<p>Is a screening tool used by family physicians and paediatricians to assess a child's development.</p> <p>It has been used since 1979 and was most recently revised in 2009.</p> <p>It provides evidence based growth and development parameters and supports education of the child's care providers through the physician.</p>
<p>RUCS - Routine Universal Comprehensive Screening Research</p> <p>Available in English</p>	<p>Women Abuse</p>	<p>All females</p>	<p>Using the universal comprehensive screening approach avoids stigmatization of abused women. RUCS is effective in achieving early identification and intervention.</p>

Another language screening tool is the Language Use Inventory (LUI).