



## Informing Parents and Obtaining Consent to Screen

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**Overview:** Because you are offering screening to all of your families, and using a parent-completed tool, consent is simple. You only need to inform your parents about your screening program. This can be done through a parent letter, or in your parent handbook. The parent’s consent is considered implied, unless they tell you they do not want to screen their child. Here is an example of how you can introduce screening to your families.

### **Example of “Implied Consent” Language to Include in a Parent Handbook or Parent Letter**

**Developmental Screening and Monitoring Program.** One of the services we provide at *(insert name of program)* is a developmental and social-emotional screening/monitoring program. Screening provides a quick check to make sure your child’s development is on-schedule. We work together with parents to screen children shortly after enrollment, and then re-screen once a year. We use a parent-completed screening tool, recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, called the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ). The ASQ helps identify your child’s strengths and areas where they could use more practice. Your teacher will talk to you more about the ASQ, they will help you get started on completing the ASQ, and then you and teacher will meet together to review the items and discuss the results. You may also complete a questionnaire about your child’s social-emotional development, the ASQ: Social-Emotional. If you do not wish for your child to participate in this program for some reason, please talk to *(insert name of director, provider)*.\*

\*See next page for an example of a form parents can sign to decline participation.

**Parent Statement Declining Participation in Screening Program**

I have read or been given information about the screening program at my child’s school. At this time I do not wish to have my child screened.

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Child’s printed name

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Parent’s or guardian’s printed name

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Parent’s or guardian’s signature Date

**Optional:** It is helpful to get your feedback. Please complete the following to let us know why you do not want to have your child screened at this time.

- My child was recently screened. ***Note:** If you are willing, please bring a copy of the completed ASQ to share with your child’s teacher. We can use this information to support your child in the classroom. It is recommended to screen young children every 6-12 months to make sure their development is on-schedule.*
  
- My child is receiving services from Early Intervention and is on an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). ***Note:** If you are willing, please bring a copy your child’s IFSP to share with your child’s teacher. We can work on your child’s goals in the classroom.*
  
- Other (please write in why you do not want your child screened at this time).

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