

# Kindergarten Year One **Ages and Stages Screening**



## What is the Ages and Stages Screening?

The Ages and Stages Screening Project uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE-2) to understand the social emotional development of children.

Learning about areas where children are meeting milestones and areas where they need support allows parents, caregivers and educators to meet children where they are at and helps with connecting families with services.

## What are the goals of the Ages and Stages Screening Project?

- Parents and caregivers will be more informed regarding the developmental needs of their children.
- Families will have access to services that support their child's social and emotional wellbeing.
- Completing the questionnaire will help with planning and creating programs to support the needs of children in our community.

## What is Social-Emotional Development?

Social emotional development is the process of learning to:

- develop relationships with others,
- experience and manage emotions
- cope when things don't go your way
- navigate social environments

Social emotional wellbeing has impacts throughout a child's life.



## What is the ASQ-SE-2?

The ASQ-SE-2 is a tool to support early identification of young children who may be experiencing social-emotional delays. This tool can help identify and respond to parent/guardian's concerns early, so the child's behaviour does not become a barrier to a healthy relationship. The ASQ-SE-2 provides a quick look at how children are doing in the following areas:

- 1 Self-Regulation:** Ability to calm, settle, and adjust to physiological or environmental conditions
- 2 Compliance:** Ability to follow the direction and rules of others
- 3 Adaptive Functioning:** Ability to cope with physiological needs (e.g., sleeping, eating, elimination, safety)
- 4 Autonomy:** Ability to self-initiate without guidance and move towards independence
- 5 Affect:** Ability to respond to his or her own feelings and empathy for others
- 6 Social-Communication:** Ability to interact with others by responding to or initiating verbal or nonverbal signals to indicate interests, needs and feelings
- 7 Interaction with People:** Ability to respond to or initiate social responses from parents, other adults, and peers





## **Why does the ASQ have some questions that use “He” pronouns and some with “She” pronouns?**

The version of the ASQ alternates using He and She on questions for a gender balance. This is now recognized as confusing and not inclusive of children who do not identify as she or he. The ASQ is being updated with gender neutral pronouns but a new version is not available at this time. We ask that parents answer ASQ questions using their child’s preferred gender pronouns.

## **What happens after I complete and return the questionnaire? Will I get the results?**

Your completed questionnaire will be reviewed by a Public Health Nurse trained in using this tool. A letter will be provided to you with the results of the questionnaire. It will include ways you can access further supports if you are interested.

If supports are identified that might benefit your child, a Public Health Nurse will call you to talk about your results. The nurse will help connect you with the suggested supports if you agree.

## **What will happen with the information I provide?**

If you complete and return the screening tool, your information will be stored in a secure location at Hamilton Public Health Services. Information about you and your child will only be shared with other agencies and your child’s school with your consent.



### **What if I have already done an ASQ:SE with my child?**

We recognize that many agencies use the ASQ. If you have been screened within the last 6 months, there is no need to repeat the screening unless you have new concerns.

### **What if my child is already involved in support services?**

This screening is available to all families of children starting Kindergarten Year One at your child's school. The screening is optional and you can complete whether or not your child is currently involved in services.

### **Can another adult complete the questionnaire on my child?**

The ASQ is designed to be completed by a parent or guardian. If you would like support in completing the questionnaire, you can call Public Health Services via the Health Connections phone line (905-546-3550) to speak with a Public Health Nurse, Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:30pm.

### **What if I need help understanding the questions?**

If you do not understand a question's wording or do not read English, you can call Public Health Services via the Health Connections phone line (905-546-3550) to speak with a Public Health Nurse, Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. The nurse will connect you with staff who can help to explain the question or can use an Interpreter so that you are able to complete the questionnaire in your preferred language.



## Where can I find more developmentally appropriate activities to do with my child?

When you complete an ASQ for your child, you will receive either a letter or a phone call from a Public Health Nurse with the results. The letter will include suggested activities to support your child's social and emotional development as well as places in the community you can visit for more activities.

If you are interested in learning activities that are age appropriate for your child and are not interested in completing an ASQ, you can call you can call Public Health Services via the Health Connections phone line (905-546-3550) to speak with a Public Health Nurse, Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:30pm.

You can also find activities to support social emotional development at the Play and Learn website at <https://playandlearn.healthhq.ca/>



# Questions?

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**Learn more about supports for families at [Hamilton.ca/parenting](https://Hamilton.ca/parenting) and [Facebook.ca/HealthyFamiliesHamilton](https://Facebook.ca/HealthyFamiliesHamilton)**



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