



# Quality ChildCare

For Registered Home-Based Providers

LEARNING TO GROW ★ WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## 10 Hallmarks of Quality Child Care

- ★ Build trusting relationships
- ★ Provide consistent care
- ★ Support children's health
- ★ Provide a safe environment
- ★ Provide positive guidance
- ★ Provide a language-rich environment
- ★ Foster curiosity and development through play
- ★ **Individualize care and learning activities**
- ★ Partner with parents
- ★ Pursue personal and professional growth

## This Month's Hallmark of Quality Child Care Individualize Care and Learning Activities

### Developmental Monitoring and Screening

Child care providers, on average, spend 6-10 hours per day with children in their care and really get to know each child well. They know which children are good at certain activities and which ones need extra support. Knowing the children well puts the child care provider in a good position to track their developmental progress and notice unusual patterns.

Child care providers can support children's growth and development by checking and monitoring children's developmental milestones and discussing their progress with families. This can be done through ongoing developmental monitoring and utilizing developmental screening tools such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ).

Developmental monitoring is already part of a child care provider's daily routine by observing how children learn and grow, and noticing their milestones such as smiling, sitting, crawling, walking, communicating, and interacting with others. Keep in mind that milestones are based on skills that most children demonstrate as they grow. Children reach milestones at different ages, and all children grow in their own way.

Developmental screening evaluates a child's physical, communication, social, emotional, and cognitive growth at a specific age. It identifies strengths and areas that may need extra support. The screening tool may be a questionnaire or checklist, and is often accompanied by a list of skills that children typically demonstrate the ability to do at that age. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months.

This newsletter will introduce the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) developmental screening tool and give suggestions on how to partner with families in the screening process.



# Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

The ASQ screens for children between 1 month and age 6 in the developmental areas of communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem-solving, and personal-social. It is one of the primary tools used by health care professionals and Early Childhood Education (ECE) settings.

The ASQ screening process is simple. The family selects the questionnaire (with help from ECE provider or health care professional) that matches the child's age and answers the questions ("Yes", "No", or "Not Yet") based on their daily observations of the child. Some items in the questionnaire may rely on the child completing a task, for example, picking up a crumb or Cheerio with the tips of the thumb and index finger, kicking a ball, and drawing a circle after watching you draw one. The family should answer each question based on what they have seen their child doing on a daily basis.

After completing the questionnaire, the responses are scored and calculated by the



ASQ system. The result of the screening will recommend one of the following three actions:

- Development appears to be on schedule. Continue tracking.
- Development is close to the cutoff score. Implement the provided activities and continue monitoring.
- Development is below the cutoff score. Seek further assessment with a professional.

Based on the results, either the ECE provider or the health care professional will meet with the family to discuss the child's development.

## Partnering with Families

By observing children over extended periods in a social group setting, you gain a unique perspective on children's development that complements the family's knowledge of their child. Your role as a child care provider is a vital asset, helping families connect with necessary resources.

Here are some ways to partner with families:

- Help with accessing the ASQ. You can also help families by going through the questions together.
- Complete the ASQ for children in your care and then compare the results with the families. For example, to prepare for your family conference.
- Discuss the scores and think about ways that you can support the child's development.
- Share goals and concerns together. Jot down recent examples of how the child communicates, interacts with others, plays, and goes through everyday routines and learning experiences.
- Discuss resources and support if there are developmental concerns.
- Use the results to incorporate activities and materials in the learning environment and at home to meet individual children's needs.

# Why Screening Matters

All states are required by law to offer developmental screening services free of charge to families. Through the Hawai'i State Department of Health *Hi'ilei Developmental Screening Program*, families can access the ASQ tool and check their children's growth and development via their online system or mail-in option.

Developmental screening is a crucial first step in identifying children's strengths and/or gaps in learning, speaking, movement, and behavior before they become significant barriers to school readiness and long-term success. Identifying delays early allows for appropriate support and resources to both children and their families. Tools like the ASQ can pinpoint the need for support, such as for developmental delays, learning disorders, or social-emotional or behavioral issues. This early identification, before kindergarten, helps children access timely and necessary early intervention services. Children who receive early intervention are more likely to enter kindergarten ready to learn, succeed academically, and fully participate in their activities.



## Resources

Here are some resources regarding developmental screening:

- For a free developmental screening or more information: Hi'ilei Developmental Screening Program, Phone (808) 733-9055, [hiilei.hawaii.gov](http://hiilei.hawaii.gov)
- Free developmental tools: Family Hui Hawai'i, (808) 230-7112, [familyhuihawaii.org/ASQs](http://familyhuihawaii.org/ASQs)
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire for more information on the tool: [agesandstages.com](http://agesandstages.com)



## Training Opportunity

*Understanding Developmental Screening: A Powerful Tool to Support Young Children and Families*

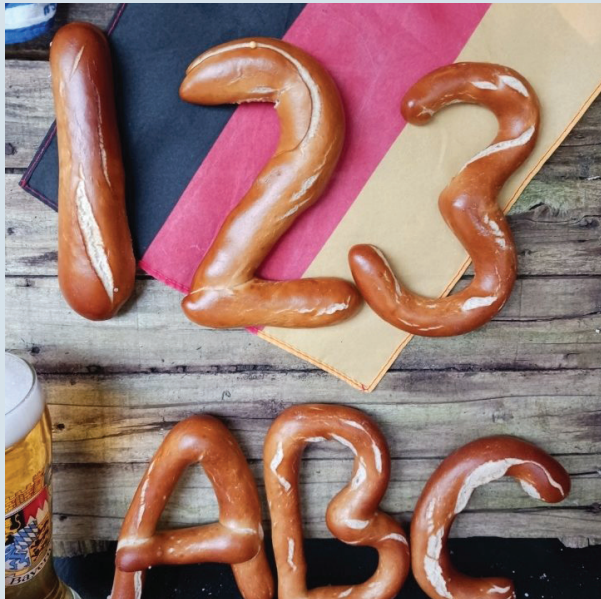
This 1.5-hour webinar defines developmental screening and identifies ways to use results to individualize services.

<https://earlychildhoodwebinars.com/webinar/understanding-developmental-screening-a-powerful-tool-to-support-young-children-and-families-by-suzanne-yockelson-phd-and-liz-twombly-ms/session-recording>

# Featured Activity

## Pretzel Letters & Numbers

Adapted from: ASQ-3 Learning Activities



### Ingredients:

- Pizza dough (store-bought or homemade)
- Egg
- Salt

### Preparation:

1. Invite children to make their own letter or number pretzels
2. Cut pizza dough into strips
3. Help children form letters or numbers with the dough
4. Beat an egg to brush the pretzels.
5. Show children how to brush beaten egg on pretzels. Allow them to try brushing on their own.
6. Sprinkle salt on pretzels
7. Bake at 400°F for 3–6 minutes or until golden brown. (Caution: keep children away from the oven)
8. Invite children to sound the letters and name the numbers before they eat.

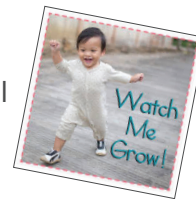
## Suggested Books

Discover these books and more at the Hawai'i State Public Library [www.librarieshawaii.org](http://www.librarieshawaii.org)

### Watch Me Grow!

by Stephanie Meyers

This book is filled with delightful photographs that capture little ones' milestones from one month to twenty-four months.



### You Are Two

by Sara O'Leary

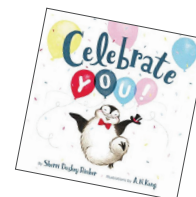
Baby's second year is full of milestones like walking, running, and saying their own names. This book is fun to read with little ones on how much they have grown in just 2 years.



### Celebrate You!

by Sherri Duskey Rinker

This book celebrates all the small but important milestones from the first wobbly steps to the time when they're ready to be on their own.



### The Magical Yet

by Angela DiTerlizzi

This book is about things that we can't do yet, but we will as we grow.



## Citations

Twombly, E., Fink, G., & Brookes, P. H. (2013). ASQ-3 learning activities. Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company.

CDC. (2025, September 4). *CDC's Developmental Milestones*. Learn the Signs. Act Early. <https://www.cdc.gov/act-early/milestones/index.html#toc>

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