

Child Find Screenings

Who screens my child?

The Child Find team consists of a nurse, a speech and language school psychologist, an occupational school psychologist, a physical school psychologist, an early childhood special education teacher, and a school psychologist. Your child will work with several of these specialists. The rest of the team may be present and available for

What is a Screening?

A screening is a series of short tests and professional observations in various developmental areas. Children who are unable to pass one or more areas of the screening may have a developmental delay in those areas. The screening, however, is not enough to determine that the child is delayed, it is only designed to let us know if we need to do further investigation into the child's development.

Will the screening be stressful for my child?

Rarely will a screening be stressful for a child most children enjoy the screening activities, which we refer to as "games" and "jobs". At times, a child may need more time to "warm up" and become comfortable. On some occasions, a child is not able to complete the screening. If this happens with your child we will talk with you to determine what to do next.

Screenings Occur Every 30-45 days

What is expected of me during the screening?

At the screening, you will have the opportunity to sit with your child and watch while the screening is done. We ask that you please do not help the child with the answers in any way.

Before attending the screening, please fill out the Parent Input Questionnaire we have sent to you and bring the completed Questionnaire to the screening. If you do not know the answer to some questions, just leave them blank. Also, please bring copies of any reports from individuals or agencies (such as speech school psychologists, physicians, DES, etc.) that you feel might be helpful to us.

The main purpose of the questionnaire is to inform us of any concerns you may already have about your child's development. This ensures that we address these concerns and gives us important information which we can use in evaluating the results of your child's screening.

Generally, after each professional has screened your child, she/he will discuss his/her observations with you. At that time you will also have an opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's development.

How long does the screening take?

Screenings generally take about an hour and half to complete but plan on somewhat longer Screenings.

What should I tell my child about the process?

We suggest that you say you are taking your child to play some games that will help everyone learn more about him or her. Try to avoid the word "test" and, more importantly, try to convey to the child that it will be fun.

What age range does Child Find Screen?

The Child Find screening is for children ages 3 to 5 years old, who have not entered kindergarten. If you have concerns about a younger child (Birth to Three years), please contact Department of Economic Security - Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) at (602) 532-9960. For an older child contact RESD Special Education Department at (602) 477-8900 ext. 1337, if you live within our district boundaries.



When will I get the results of the screening?

As mentioned earlier, the professionals who have screened your child will usually discuss their observations with you at the screening. In order to fully evaluate the screening results, our team members need an opportunity to share information with each other. This allows us to give the proper thought to your child's performance and to give our best professional recommendations. Therefore, the final results of the screening may not be available to you immediately after the screening. If the results are not readily available at the screening, you will receive a phone call within a week to discuss the results and any recommendations.

What if the results indicate that my child's development is delayed?

We will meet with you to discuss all of the resources available to you. Because there are a variety of factors involved in this, we cannot cover all of these options on this page.

Will the results indicate whether or not my child is advanced?

The purpose of our screening is to identify development that is below age level. A child who passes all areas of the screening may be advanced, but the screening is not intended for that purpose.

Will the results become part of my child's Permanent Record?

Because Child Find is part of Riverside Elementary School District all of our records are available to any public school in which your child is eventually enrolled.

In addition, many preschools, daycare centers, physicians, and other specialists find our reports useful. We will gladly send copies of the screening letter to agencies or individuals, as long as we have your written permission to do so.



Vision Hearing Speech Language

What developmental areas are covered?

At Child Find, we screen the areas of vision and hearing, speech, language, cognition (thinking skills), motor coordination (fine and gross), and social development. The screening is adjusted for your child's age.

Results: Pass, Rescreen, and Evaluate - Can you elaborate please?

Pass means that, in that particular developmental area, your child's performance fell within the normal range for his or her age. This basically means that you need not be concerned about your child's development in that area.

Evaluate means that your child is showing definite signs of being delayed in that area of development. Remember a screening is not the final determination of whether a child is delayed, but results in this category raise enough questions that we will recommend that you pursue further, more comprehensive evaluation of your child. In most cases, Child Find is able to provide this evaluation for you.

A child who receives a Rescreen falls in between the other two results. This indicates that the child did not do as well as most children of the same age. The reasons for this, however, may be unclear at the time of the screening. Often a Rescreen is the result of the child being uncooperative, being uncomfortable in the screening situation, or for any other reason not demonstrating his or her best ability. It may also be that the child is somewhat below age level developmental, but that with time he or she could progress into the average range without help. On the other hand, a Rescreen can indicate that a child has just begun to fall behind his or her age level, and with time will fall further behind.

Because it is difficult for us to know the exact reason for a child falling into the Rescreen category, we prefer to monitor his or her development by doing another screening. We usually recommend this for 6 months to a year after the initial screening, though sometimes we ask to do so sooner. When it is time to screen your child again, we ask that the parent contact the Special Education office to schedule a new appointment.

