

Sharing Screening Results with Families

It's important to always share ASQ-3™ results—parents will be interested in learning about their child's development. You should prepare carefully for these discussions, especially when you will be sharing results that identify a child as needing further assessment. Use these practical tips to help you discuss ASQ-3 results with families.

Be timely

Provide screening follow-up information as quickly as you can.

Show you value confidentiality

Be sure the setting for your conversation is private and assure parents that the conversation is confidential.

Use the ASQ-3™ Parent Conference sheet

This will help you organize your thoughts and take notes during the conversation or parent conference (the conference sheet is included in the *Developmental Screening Toolkit* or *ASQ-3™ Starter Kit*).

Restate the purpose of screening

Remind parents that screening is a check of their child's development. ASQ-3 only shows that their child may need further assessment and does not diagnose their child.

Listen to the family

Give parents an opportunity to express their perceptions of their child. Be open to new ideas and viewpoints.

Highlight the positives

Review the results, emphasizing the child's strengths. Also focus on parents' current skills and resources.

Explain the child's results

Be precise—Use language such as *well above cutoffs*, *close to cutoffs*, and *below cutoffs* when explaining the child's scores.

Be sensitive and positive

Avoid using terms like *fail*, *normal*, or *abnormal*.

Talk about next steps of development

If the child's development is on track, talk with parents about what skills to expect next. Provide learning activities that they can try at home. Let them know they'll have an opportunity to look again (programs are encouraged to complete another screening for children in 6–12 months).

Talk about outside influences

Discuss anything that may have affected the child's scores. This could include opportunity to try the skills, the child's health history, or specific cultural or environmental factors.

Examine together

Discuss concerns, and provide specific, objective examples of children's development whenever possible.

Offer guidance

Provide information about child development and activities to try at home. If a child's score is below the cutoff or if the parent has concerns, provide information about community resources and referral options.

