

# WHY IS SCREENING IMPORTANT?

Developmental screenings can improve our children's health and well being by identifying children at risk for developmental problems. A screening does not diagnose a child with a disability but it may suggest the need for further evaluation. A screening is not meant to replace a health check-up with your child's doctor.

Developmental screening will:

- Increase early identification of developmental and behavioral problems
- Improve access to early treatment
- Create a relationship between families and their child's doctor
- Teach parents and caregivers about their child's development
- Promote healthy behavior and development

## What happens after my child has been screened?

If the screening shows your child is doing well developmentally, it is important to:

**Continue to monitor development with regular screenings**

If you would like to learn about community resources to enhance your child's development, please call:

**Help Me Grow  
1.866.GROW.025 (1.866.476.9025)**

Connects families with children birth through 5 years of age to developmental and behavioral services

If a concern is identified by the screening, your child may qualify for special services.

Child is under 3 years of age, please contact:

**Regional Center of Orange County  
714.796.5354**

Provides early intervention services for children under 3 years through the California Early Start Program.

Child is over 3 years of age, please contact:

**Your Local School District**

Provides special education services to children 3 years and older. Call your local school district special education office for a free assessment.

*Developed by Orange County Social Services Agency in collaboration with Regional Center of Orange County, Family Support Network, Help Me Grow, Orange County Department of Education and the Children and Families Commission of Orange County*

# HOW WE CAN HELP OUR CHILDREN GROW



**A Guide to Developmental Screening in Orange County**



# DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING



## What are developmental screenings?

Height and weight are often used to measure a child's growth. A child's development can be measured by how a child learns, speaks, moves, behaves and relates. Skills such as smiling, waving, talking and walking are developmental milestones. Progress on these milestones can be found with regular screening through childhood.

A screening tool is often a questionnaire that is completed by a parent or caregiver. A professional works with the family in reviewing the results.

Physical exams, vision and hearing tests and developmental screenings are all important ways to monitor how a child is growing.

## Who should be screened?

All children birth through age 5 years should be screened regularly prior to school entry.



## When should my child be screened?

It is never too early to have a developmental screening, especially if concerned about your child's development. Children should be screened early and often. The earlier a problem is identified, the sooner a child can get help.

- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends developmental screening at regular doctor visits with a high-quality screening tool.

## Where can I get a developmental screening in Orange County?

- **Your Doctor or Health Care Provider**

Talk with your child's doctor about his/her development, especially if you have concerns. Ask about using a high quality developmental screening tool.



- **Help Me Grow**

[www.helpmegrowoc.org](http://www.helpmegrowoc.org)

Call 1.866.GROW.025 (1.866.476.9025), to be connected to community agencies providing screenings and services for children birth through age 5 years.

- **Family Support Network** 714.854.7762

[www.familysupportnetworkca.com](http://www.familysupportnetworkca.com)

Free screenings are provided each month in different Orange County locations for children ages birth through 5 years. Caregivers have face to face contact with specialists who screen children in 7 different areas including speech, hearing, vision, and more.