

EC Screening FAQ's

What is Early Childhood Screening?

Early Childhood Screening is a FREE check of a child's hearing and vision, weight and height, health history, immunizations, speech and language, general development and motor skills. Minnesota law requires Early Childhood Screening before a child can enter kindergarten. Early Childhood Screening is NOT a readiness test for kindergarten. Screening identifies children who may have health or developmental concerns and allows for appropriate assistance as early as possible. This assistance helps children get off to a good start when they enter school. Parents gain information about their child's health and overall development at screenings, in addition to available resources that help children grow.

Is Early Child Screening required?

Early Childhood Screening is a requirement for Kindergarten enrollment in Minnesota public schools.

When should my child get screened?

A child can be screened anytime after age 3. We recommend screening your child before their fourth birthday, especially if you have concerns (ie: hearing, vision, speech, behavior, development).

How do I schedule a screening appointment?

You can schedule a screening online at <https://earlychildhood.isd624.org/programs/screenings>. Screenings are held on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the school year and you must have an appointment. If you have questions, you may call 651-653-3100.

How long does a screening appointment last?

Screening takes about 1 hour per child, including a parent summary at the end of screening.

What can I expect when I bring my child for screening?

First your child will have their height and weight taken, then play some fun games with a teacher where we are looking at your child's areas of development like language, gross and fine motor, and cognitive skills. Next your child will have their hearing and vision checked. Parents stay with their child through the entire process and will have some additional paperwork to complete. Finally, the teacher will complete a parent exit interview/summary with you gathering more information and making any recommendations necessary.

How can I explain to my child what will happen at their screening appointment?

We strive to make screening a welcoming, fun, and positive experience for every child, but we understand it can be new and scary. To help your child get ready for Early Childhood Screening, talk with them about how they will be playing fun games, getting ready for school, and having their eyes and ears checked.

Why do I need to bring a copy of my child's immunizations with me to my appointment? What if they are already on file with the district?

Per state statute, a review of your child's immunizations is required to make sure they are up to date, even if they are already on file with the district.

What if my child has already been screened through another district or through Head Start?

Your child only needs to be screened ONCE. If your child has been screened elsewhere, he or she does not need to be screened again. However, we will need a copy of your child's screening summary form for their file. Please submit to our main office at Normandy Park.

Are siblings appropriate during Early Childhood Screening?

We prefer you to find alternative care for your other children, as we want you to be able to focus on the child participating in screening.