

Westport Public Schools
PRESCHOOL SCREENING

2026-2027



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To start the screening process, please contact: Diane Marcinowski – 203-341-1712

Screening dates for 2026-2027

Held on the *first Friday* of each month:

October 2, November 6, December 4,
January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2,
May 7, and June 4

What:

As part of the CT State Child Find process, Westport Public Schools (WPS) conducts monthly screenings to determine if a child's skills are appropriate for his/her age, or if further observation, interventions, or testing (such as a comprehensive evaluation) are indicated. The screening tool used is the Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL-4), which is a standardized tool that measures a child's skills in the areas of speech and language, basic concepts, and motor skills. **It should be noted that the screening process is *not* an evaluation to determine special education eligibility.**

Who is eligible:

The Preschool Screening is available to all children who are Westport residents. Eligible children must be at least 3 years old at the time of the screening and not Kindergarten eligible (i.e., born on or before September 1, 2021). Non-resident children, ages 3 to 5 years (and not kindergarten eligible), are also able to access a Preschool Screening if they are attending a private preschool within the town of Westport.

Why:

If parents have concerns about their child's development, parents can make a referral to the Preschool Screening Team by requesting a screening appointment. The Screening is conducted monthly **by appointment only**.

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October 2, November 6, December 4,
January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2,
May 7, and June 4.

What to Expect:

After scheduling an appointment, parents will receive a confirmation letter with the date, time, and location of the screening, along with two questionnaires; the Parent and Teacher Questionnaires. Parents and teachers should complete the questionnaires prior to the appointment and bring them on the day of the screening. A parent meeting with the Preschool Liaison will be held while the child is screened to share more detailed information on the screening process as well as to gain additional information about your child.

The Day of the Screening:

The screening process lasts up to 45 minutes. The screening team may include: a) special education teacher, b) speech/language pathologist, c) school psychologist, d) school social worker. The screening is done in a child-friendly atmosphere and is a combination of standardized and play-based activities across several domains.

Possible Next Steps:

Following the screening, parents will receive correspondence regarding the results of the screening and possible next steps. Parents are encouraged to share the results of the screening with their child's preschool.

Possible outcomes of the screening include:

- The results of the screening indicate that the child's skills are developmentally appropriate. No further action will be taken unless contacted by the preschool or parent.

The results of the screening may suggest that it would be beneficial for the Preschool Screening Team to observe the child in his/her preschool program. The Preschool Screening Team will work with the parents and preschool to find a mutually agreed upon time to observe the child in the preschool program.

Following preschool observation(s) the Preschool Screening Team may:

1. Recommend specific instructional strategies to assist the child within his/her classroom.
2. Have concerns about a child's skills in one or more developmental areas and recommend a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting to discuss those concerns and determine if a comprehensive evaluation is warranted.

Requirements for Screening:

Proof of Residency or Attendance Residents of Westport must bring copies of the following documents to the screening:

Copy of one of the following at address within district in parent's name:

Deed to home Mortgage statement

Current property tax bill Dated rental agreement Landlord & Parent Affidavit
(from Superintendent's office)

Three Supporting Documents (copies only):

- Two current utility bills (cable television, water, electric, gas, oil – NOT cell phone) AND,
- Photo ID (CT driver's license or State ID card) showing current Westport address

*You are also required to bring a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport.

Non-residents of Westport: must also provide proof of attendance in Westport private preschool.