



Finally we have a way for Parents to measure the many different ways their children grow!

Parent Link Centres offer the Ages and Stages Questionnaire for parents to use to give them a 'snapshot' of their child's development.

Why is Monitoring Child Development Important?

The first 5 years of life are very important because this time sets the stage for success in school and later adulthood. This is optimal time for your child to learn through play and experiences. It is important to ensure that each child is developing as expected during this period.

What Is the Ages and Stages Questionnaire?

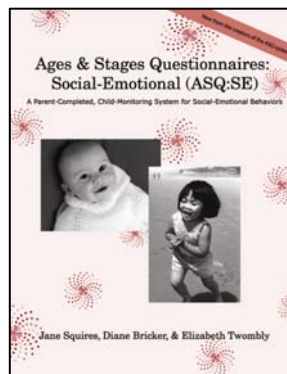
This is a simple questionnaire that the parent fills out at home. It is based on the age of the child and asks specific questions to determine your child's development in the following areas:

1. **Communication:** looks at the child's language skills, both what he/she understands and what he/she can say.
2. **Gross motor:** looks at large muscle movement and coordination.
3. **Fine motor:** looks at hand and finger movement and coordination.
4. **Problem solving:** looks at how the child plays with toys and the child's problem-solving skills.
5. **Personal social:** looks at the child's self-help skills and interactions with others.
6. An **Overall** section addresses general parental concerns.

What Is the Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire?

This is a simple questionnaire that the parent fills out at home. This questionnaire compliments the ASQ by providing information specifically addressing the social and emotional behaviour of children ranging in age from 3 to 66 months and includes the following areas:

1. **Self-regulation** looks at the child's ability or willingness to calm or settle down
2. **Compliance** looks at the child's ability or willingness to conform to the direction of others and follow rules.
3. **Communication** looks at the child's ability or willingness to respond to or initiate verbal or nonverbal signals to indicate feelings.
4. **Adaptive functioning** looks at the child's success or ability to cope with physiological needs (e.g., sleeping, eating, elimination, safety).
5. **Autonomy** looks at the child's ability or willingness to self-initiate or respond without guidance (i.e., moving to independence).
6. **Affect** looks at the child's ability or willingness to demonstrate his or her own feelings and empathy for others.
7. **Interaction with people** looks at the child's ability or willingness to respond to or initiate social responses to parents, other adults, and peers.



QUESTION:

How do I complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire?

ANSWER:

As you play with your child, you are asked to observe the way that your child completes certain activities. You check "yes" if your child performs the activity regularly; "sometimes" if your child does it only occasionally; "not yet" if your child does not do the activity yet.

QUESTION:

What do I do with the completed Ages and Stages Questionnaire?

ANSWER:

Once you complete the questionnaire, return it to the Parent Link Centre and it will be reviewed by a staff person. The staff will go over the results with you. You will receive a list of appropriate activities you may enjoy doing with your child to continue to promote development.

QUESTION:

What happens if the Ages and Stages Questionnaire determines that my child has an area of concern?

ANSWER:

If your child is identified as having an area of concern, the parent will be given a referral to an appropriate agency for further evaluation. This does not mean that there is something wrong with your child, but perhaps they simply need extra attention in one of the five previously identified areas.

Developmental Check up

Are you curious to know if your child (aged 2 months to 5 years) is developing typically. Make an appointment to meet with Parent Link staff to complete an Ages and Stages questionnaire and receive immediate feedback on your child's progress. Staff can provide you with tips and activities to try at home with your child. Referrals will also be made to other services and / or groups that may benefit your family.