



Developmental Screening Frequently Asked Questions



Who attends the screening?



The child and his/her parent or legal guardian generally attend. If the parent or legal guardian wants someone else to bring their child, they may complete a screening permission form prior to the screening and send it with the caregiver if they will not be present.

Where will the screening take place?



Screenings are by appointment and take place in one of two Charlotte County locations. They are **Baker Early Childhood Center** located in Punta Gorda and **the Stephen Dionisio Pumpkin Patch Academy** in Port Charlotte.

How long will the screening take?



The length of time varies depending on the age of the child and other factors. Typically, the screening combined with the parent interview and paperwork will last from 45-60 minutes.

Is there a cost for the screening?



There is no charge, regardless of family income. FDLRS Child Find Screenings are provided as a free service of the public school system for children and their families.

What happens during the screening?



The Child Find Specialist will greet your child. Your child will sit near or next to the Child Find Specialist at a table. The parent/guardian may sit nearby to observe. Please note: no parental input is needed unless requested by the Child Find Specialist. After the screening, the parent or guardian will be given the opportunity to provide input regarding the child's performance that was not offered by your child during the screening. Hearing and vision are typically part of the screening.

What should I tell my child to prepare him/her for the screening?



Tell your child that he/she will be playing with someone new and describe the screening as a fun event. Do not use words such as "test", "doctor", or other expressions that may cause stress.

When will I get results?



The results are discussed with the parent/guardian following the screening. If the parent/guardian is not present, the Child Find Specialist will contact them within a day or two upon return to the office. The parent/guardian may also call the Child Find Specialist at the office to discuss screening results.

What happens if my child is recommended for further evaluations?



If your child scores below his/her age level, further diagnostic testing may be recommended. Further evaluation is done only with signed parental consent after the screening results have been discussed. The referral may include evaluations by the speech/language pathologist and/or the school psychologist depending on the outcome of the screening.

Is my child's information confidential?



Information is never shared without the written permission of the parent/guardian. Results will be forwarded to the public school system only if your child is referred for further evaluation. Results may be shared with physicians, therapists, or other agencies at the request of the parent/guardian. Contact Charlotte County Child Find at 1-941-255-0808 with additional questions or visit our website at <https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/Page/18037>.