

Frequently Asked Questions for PARENTS/GUARDIANS ESI-R[®] Screening for UPK

New York City Department of Education

The New York State Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require all school districts to establish a process for assessing the developmental baseline and progress monitoring of all children. To comply with this regulation, the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) - Office of Early Childhood Education is screening all children enrolled in the Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program using the Early Screening Inventory – Revised (ESI-R[®]) Screening tool or one of the other approved screening tools.

All parents will be notified that their child will be screened. The following questions and answers are provided to guide parents/guardians in understand the screening tool and the process.

1. What is the ESI-R[®] Screen?

The ESI-R[®] is a standardized screening tool that assists educators in learning more about various aspects of a child's development such as language, cognition, perception and motor development. This screening does not determine whether your child is eligible for Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten, nor is it a test of IQ, school readiness or acceptance into the Gifted and Talented program.

For more information about Gifted and Talented Programs please visit the following website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/GiftedandTalented/default.htm>

2. Is the ESI-R[®] the only instrument that is used to screen children?

The NYCDOE has provided a list of approved alternative screening tools as some programs may already have invested in other instruments. These are:

- Battelle Developmental Inventory Screening Test (BDIST)
- Brigance Early Childhood Screen II (3 – 5 years)
- Brigance Head Start Screen
- Developmental Assessment of Young Children (DAYC)
- Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL-3)

3. Does my child need to be screened?

Yes. NY State UPK regulations require the screening of children entering the school system using a valid and reliable instrument. This applies to children enrolled in a UPK Program either in a public school or Community Based Organization (CBO). However, please note that the ESI-R[®] screening is currently available in only English and Spanish. If you do not want your child to be screened, you will need to discuss this matter with your child's teacher and make a written request to him/her.

4. When do children need to be screened?

All children eligible for screening should be screened by the 1st of December of the school year.

- 5. Who will administer the screening tool to my child?**
Your child's teacher will administer the screening. If your child's primary language is Spanish and his/her teacher is not a Spanish speaker, another trained Spanish speaking staff member would administer the screening for your child.
- 6. How long is the screening process?**
The screening process takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes per child.
- 7. Do I need to be present when my child is being screened?**
No. Parents/Legal Guardians and Caregivers do not need to be present when the child is being screened.
- 8. Can I see the screening tool (i.e. materials, questions etc.) prior to my child being screened?**
No. Parents/Guardians should not review the screening tool materials, questions etc. prior to their child being screened.
- 9. Is there anything that I need to provide before my child is screened?**
Yes. There is a Parent Questionnaire that you should complete prior to your child being screened. This Questionnaire will provide supplemental information about your child's history and overall development.
- 10. Will I be informed of the outcome of the screening?**
Yes. Your child's teacher will inform you of the outcome of the screening.
- 11. Will the results from the screening be on my child's school record?**
No. Your child's screening outcome will not be reported outside the NYCDOE nor would it be included in your child's cumulative school record.
- 12. My child has an IEP. Would my child be screened?**
No. If your child has been identified as a child with special needs and has an IEP then your child will not be screened.
- 13. My child does not speak English or Spanish. Will my child still be screened?**
No. The ESI-R[®] is only available in English and Spanish. Children who speak languages other than English and Spanish will not be screened. ESI-R[®] is normed and standardized in English and Spanish only.
- 14. My child was already screened. Are you going to screen my child again?**
If your child was screened within the last 12 months (*prior to the date of the scheduled screening or the 1st of December of the current school year*) using the ESI-R[®] screening and your child scored in the "OK" Category, then the results are still valid. If the child was screened in the last 12 months, but there is no evidence or documentation that substantiates the result, then your child will be screened.

Please visit the OECE Website at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/EarlyChildhood/ParentResources/default.htm>

Please email the OECE at:

earlychildhood@schools.nyc.gov