

ALGOMA DISTRICT

Nurturing Algoma

Bright Beginnings. Discover where your child shines.

INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR FAMILIES



Early Screening. Lifelong Learning!

Nurturing Algoma is a community project formed by a partnership between organizations across Algoma that provide service and support for families with kids under the age of 6. There are now 30 different places from Spanish to White River where a family can access early developmental screening.

- Baby's brains start growing in pregnancy and continue to develop at the most rapid rate of their entire lives in the first few years.
- Making sure children get a good start means they will have the health and skills to have the best life possible.
- Community support is needed for families to thrive to their best ability.
- Screening celebrates subtle changes in your child's development and helps you discover all the little things your child is doing that lead to big milestones.
- Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQs) are tools used to check how a child is growing and learning in areas like talking, moving, interacting with others, and thinking.
- Benefits include helping your child reach their full potential by spotting their strengths and finding out early if they need extra help in any areas.



Parents know their child best. Your unique knowledge of your child's interests, behaviours, and interactions in different settings is key to developing a full picture of their development.



What do the Ages and Stages Questionnaires tell us?



ASQ-3 Questionnaire

This tool will celebrate your child's developing skills in the following areas:

Communication - Speaking & understanding language

Gross motor - Using large muscles for activities like sitting, crawling, walking, & running

Fine motor - Movement & coordination of hands & fingers

Problem solving - Thinking through play with toys & games

Personal-social - Self-help and interacting with others



ASQ:SE-2 Questionnaire

This tool highlights the skills your child uses to develop healthy relationships:

Self-regulation - Becoming calm, settling down

Compliance - Following rules or instructions

Social-communication - Interacting with others through gestures and language

Adaptive functioning - Daily skills eg. sleeping, eating, elimination, safety

Autonomy - Becoming independent, doing things on their own

Affect - Demonstrating feelings, caring about others

Interaction with people - Talking and playing with people well known to them

“Developmental screening involves and fosters engagement by parents and caregivers in actively participating in their child's development”
SickKids, IEMHP

Frequently Asked Questions

1

When can I get an ASQ screen?



Any time you are curious about your child's development. Nurturing Algoma is hosting a screening blitz from April 1-30, 2025.

2

Where in Algoma can I bring my child to complete an ASQ screen?



Scan the QR code for a list of agencies and their contact information. Free public events are being held across Algoma during the blitz.

3

How much time does it take to complete a screen?



Filling out these forms is quick, easy, and can take less than 20 minutes. You only have to answer questions that you are comfortable answering.

4

Should I complete the ASQ-3 or the ASQ:SE-2 for my child?



You can complete both the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE:2 screens or either. Each screen offers different insights into your child's growth and development.

5

Do I complete the screen or does someone else do it for my child?



All of our screeners are certified early years professionals. As the expert about your child, you will answer the questions. The trained screener is available to help you complete the questionnaire.

6

How do I complete the questionnaires?



You will answer each question by checking off "Yes", "Sometimes" or "Not Yet" for the ASQ- 3 and "Often", "Sometimes" or "Rarely" for the ASQ – SE- 2 based on your child's age.

7

What happens after I complete the ASQ?



The trained screener will share the results and provide feedback. They will suggest fun activities or provide resources that support your child's development.

Building a Database

When you complete a screen during the April blitz, you will be invited to help build the Canadian Database of Development, Infancy to Six (CanDDIS) by adding your child's scores. Information from the database will help us understand the needs of our community's children which will support program development and requests for funding to improve children's services.

8	Do I have to agree to the database in order to have an ASQ done?	→	No, participation in the database is voluntary. You can have an ASQ screen completed even if you don't want your child's information in the database.
9	Will I or my child be identified?	→	No. Everything stored in the database is completely anonymous.
10	What information is included in the CanDDIS?	→	Scores from the ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 will be included in the database. You will have the option to consent to sharing demographic data like your postal code and if you access children's services.
11	Is the database secure?	→	The data is stored on a secure server at the Centre for Advanced Computing at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. There is no public access to the database.
12	Who created the Canadian Database of Development, Infancy to Six (CanDDIS)?	→	The database was created by the Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP) team at The Toronto Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and Queen's University. Algoma early years services have partnered with them to help build the CanDDIS.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the lead researcher Dr. Karys Peterson-Katz at karys.peterson-katz@sickkids.ca



List of Partners Across the District

Algoma Family Services

Algoma Public Health

Blind River EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Boreal School – EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Bruce Mines EarlyON Child and Family Centre Outreach

Desbarats EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Echo Bay EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Elliot Lake EarlyON Child and Family Centre

H.M. Robbins - EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Holy Cross School – EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Holy Angels School – EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Hornepayne EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Iron Bridge EarlyON Child and Family Centre

James L. McIntyre Centennial Library

Mountain View School – EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Prince Township Community Centre - EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Prince Charles Early Learning Centre Before and After School Program

River View School - EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Rosedale School – EarlyON Child and Family Centre

SSM Indigenous Friendship Centre/Urban Indigenous EarlyON

St. Basil School - EarlyON Child and Family Centre

St. Joseph Island EarlyON Child and Family Centre

The Orchard Children's Centre

Thessalon EarlyON Child and Family Centre

THRIVE Child Development Centre

Waabinong Head Start

Wawa EarlyON Child and Family Centre

White River EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Sault Ste. Marie YMCA Childcare - Sault Ste. Marie

