Delaware Ages and Stages Early Childhood Developmental Screening Partnership

Goal

**To provide access to developmental screening for all children birth to 5
in order to identify those at risk for developmental delays**

The Department of Education, Office of Early Learning (OEL) is committed to assuring that every child has access to developmental screening. In order for this to happen, there must be strong partnerships between school districts and early learning programs demonstrating a shared responsibility to make this happen in Delaware. Beginning in the fall of 2019 each and every child will have the opportunity to receive a free developmental screening through either their school district or the Delaware Readiness team online web link. Providing access to screening will lead to earlier identification, meeting the needs of our children and families, which will lead to better child outcomes.

The OEL and Delaware Stars have been collaborating with early learning programs to administer the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) developmental screenings since 2013. Since that time, over 300 Stars early learning programs have signed up to use the online ASQ subscription provided through OEL. During this time, the system has faced several challenges, including:

- Only children enrolled in early learning programs participating in Delaware Stars or home visiting programs have had access to a developmental screening.
- While the purpose of developmental screenings is to identify children at risk for developmental delays, no comprehensive data is available on completion of screenings, numbers of referrals for evaluations, or follow-up services.
- There is a duplication of services with early learning programs completing the ASQ and then school districts completing developmental screenings using the DIAL.
- The Birth to Three/Child Development Watch Early Intervention program has not been participating in the online ASQ subscription.
- Sometime next year the ASQ will be updated to the ASQ 4; distributing new versions to all participating early learning programs will be challenging and expensive.

In an effort to improve the system, stakeholders developed a new process to address the above concerns - to serve all children birth through five in Delaware, to be more efficient, to provide necessary referrals, and to collect data to determine where further resources are needed. This process will go into effect September 2019.

The New Delaware Ages and Stages Early Childhood Developmental Screening Partnership is as follows:

- The Department of Education Office of Early Learning will continue to hold the subscription to the online Ages and Stages (ASQ) program through Brookes Publishing.
- **School districts will:**
  - Maintain links on their early childhood websites for:
    - ASQ screenings for children birth to age three through the Birth to Three Early Intervention System.
    - ASQ screenings for children ages three through five through the school district or the Delaware Readiness Team (if the school district does not have an ASQ link).

- o Reach out to **all** early learning programs in their districts (first prioritizing those in Stars and then all licensed childcare providers) sharing the link to their early childhood website, which includes links to the online ASQ program.
  - o Set up early learning programs as "providers" (classrooms) in their online ASQ program, thereby allowing early learning providers access to children enrolled in their programs.
  - o Review screenings **at a minimum of every 2 weeks** and place children into 'classrooms' so that early childhood providers can track which families have not completed the screenings.
  - o Jamie Walko, the contracted OEL Part B Technical Assistant, will send early learning providers the Birth to Three and school district ASQ links. (Subject line: **ASQ CHANGE)** This email will include information that they will be receiving another email from **donotreply@asqonline.com** to set up their new passwords for the Birth to Three and school districts links. Once that is completed, they will have access to the Birth to Three and district online portal to view their screenings.

- o **Early learning programs will:**
  - o Continue to access ASQ trainings through the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC).
  - o Continue to educate families about the importance of developmental screenings.
  - o Distribute developmental screening information provided by the school district to all families.
  - o Access the online ASQ program to monitor completion of ASQ screenings, following-up when necessary to ensure parent completion of both the ASQ-3 and ASQ: SE-2.
    - ▪ If the family completes the screening on paper, the early learning provider will enter the information in the online ASQ program.
    - ▪ If the family does not complete the ASQ screenings, the early learning provider will request consent from the family to allow the teacher to complete the screening. The teacher completing the screening should be an individual who spends at least 20 hours per week with the child.
  - o Notify the district ASAP if they are up for Stars re-verification. They must give at least 1-month notice so the district can review screenings and assign the children to the correct program.
  - o **NOTE:** Please give districts 2 weeks to review screenings and place them into your program.

- o **As ASQ screenings are completed in the online ASQ program, school districts and the Birth to Three Early Intervention program will:**
  - o Review completed screenings.
  - o Share results of screenings and follow-up activities with families who complete online ASQ screenings.
  - o Make appropriate referrals for identified children.
  - o Maintain records regarding referral and eligibility.

The plan is to transition early learning programs to the school district and Birth to Three ASQ portals late this summer. You will continue to have access to your current ASQ URLs until December 31, 2019. After this date, you will no longer have access to your current childcare ASQ URLs.

Please be on the lookout for your email this summer from Jamie Walko with the subject: ASQ CHANGE