

**Screening and Assessment to Identify and Meet the Social-Emotional Needs of Infants and Toddlers in Early Intervention and Their Families**

Initial Eligibility Determination

* *Now*: Use of the ASQ-SE will be strongly recommended for all children as part of the initial eligibility determination process.
* *Beginning July 1, 2026*: Use of the ASQ-SE will become required as part of the eligibility determination process for all children, including those for whom eligibility is established by records.

Initial Assessment for Service Planning (ASP)

* *Now*: Use of a social-emotional (SE)-specific assessment tool will be recommended for all children and strongly recommended for those with ASQ-SE results in the monitoring zone or above the cutoff. Use of a SE-specific assessment tool also will be strongly recommended in other situations where concerns have been identified (e.g., based on the presence of risk factors or informed clinical opinion) even when the ASQ-SE indicates no delays.
* *Beginning July 1, 2026*: Use of a SE-specific assessment tool will become required for those with ASQ-SE results in the monitoring zone or above the cutoff.
* ASP Team: Strongly recommend the ASP team includes someone with Infant Mental Health endorsement or related expertise for those children with ASQ-SE results in the monitoring zone or above the cutoff or when other risk factors are present.
* Tools: The following SE tools are recommended for assessment of social-emotional development -- Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) Infant and Toddler, Infant & Toddler Social Emotional Assessment (ITSEA), Social Emotional Assessment/Evaluation Measure (SEAM). Please reference the Social-Emotional Assessment Toolkit ([Social-Emotional-Screening-and-Assessment-Toolkit-2024-08.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fitcva.online%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FPractitioners%2FPractices%2FSE%2FSocial-Emotional-Screening-and-Assessment-Toolkit-2024-08.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)) and Social-Emotional Related Factors Screening & Assessment Toolkit ([Virginias-Social-Emotional-Related-Factors-Screening-and-Assessment-Toolkit-2024-08.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fitcva.online%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FPractitioners%2FPractices%2FSE%2FVirginias-Social-Emotional-Related-Factors-Screening-and-Assessment-Toolkit-2024-08.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)) for information about these and other tools. The SE Related Factors Guiding Questions ([Related-Factors-Guiding-Questions-2024-08.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fitcva.online%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FPractitioners%2FPractices%2FSE%2FRelated-Factors-Guiding-Questions-2024-08.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)) may be helpful in identifying appropriate screening and assessment tools that consider child, parent and family factors that may impact the child’s social-emotional development.
* Family Assessment: As is required now, the family-directed assessment must be based on information obtained through Virginia’s family assessment tool questions and an interview (conversation) with those family members who choose to participate. The questions that constitute the required family assessment tool will be revised as follows (blue font represents new wording/questions):
  + Tell me about your family – who is in your family?
  + Who are other caregivers for Johnny, e.g. extended family, childcare providers, etc.?
  + Tell me about the places your child and family spend time.
  + What is a typical day like for your child, your family and you as a parent?
  + Tell me about your routines and activities. Which routines/activities are going well and which are not going well for your child? What are the most challenging aspects of your daily routine for you as the parent?
  + What other activities would you like your child and family to participate in?
  + What activities really interest your child, and which ones interest you to do with your child?
  + Describe your relationship with your child. What are some of the strengths and challenges you encounter, or times you feel particularly stressed or overwhelmed as a parent?
  + Please share any aspects of your culture, faith, spiritual or parenting practices you want us to be mindful of when working with your child and family.

Ongoing

* *Now*: Use of the ASQ-SE will be recommended every 6 months for all children and strongly recommended annually for all children.
* *Beginning July 1, 2026*: Use of the ASQ-SE will become required annually for all children.
* Service coordinators and service providers are encouraged to use the SE Related Factors Guiding Questions ([Related-Factors-Guiding-Questions-2024-08.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fitcva.online%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FPractitioners%2FPractices%2FSE%2FRelated-Factors-Guiding-Questions-2024-08.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)) over time and as needed to assist in understanding factors that may impact a child’s development and a family’s parenting beliefs and practices. Information from the guiding questions will assist the team in identifying other ongoing or one-time screening or assessment tools that may be helpful in supporting the family to help their child develop and learn.
* Neither the ASQ-SE nor a SE-specific assessment tool are necessary to access services to support SE development or Infant Mental Health if concerns arise at any point after initial eligibility/initial IFSP. Requiring ongoing use of the ASQ-SE at a designated interval would be a fail-safe to make sure no child falls through the cracks; but, if an SE concern arises, there is no requirement to use the ASQ-SE or a SE-specific assessment tool for the IFSP team to add outcomes and/or services to the IFSP immediately.