

CHILD OUTREACH is a **FREE** service offered to ALL children 3 to 5 years old by your local school district in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Education.

What are the goals of Child Outreach?

INFORMATION

Child Outreach provides information about your child's development and resources that are available within your community.

PREVENTION

Child Outreach can help identify children who may need further assessment, intervention and/or services at an early age in order to prevent the occurrence of more severe problems later.



Child Outreach Screening

Every Child | Every Year



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Provided by

The Rhode Island
Department of
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for Diverse Learners



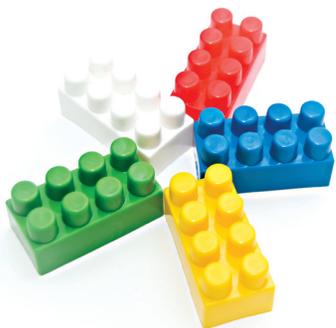
Your Local
School System

**FREE
SCREENING**
for Rhode Island Children
3,4 and 5 Years Old

What does screening involve?

Child Outreach provides a brief assessment in five areas of development:

- Vision
- Hearing
- Speech and Language Skills
- Social/Emotional Development
- General Development, such as gross and fine motor skills, memory, etc.



The information about your child's development is gathered in two ways:

First, your child will participate for about 45 minutes in game-like activities conducted by trained personnel from the public school system.

Second, you will complete simple Family Questionnaires about your child's development as observed at home in everyday activities (such as playing and interacting with others) and his/her medical /health history.

Families are involved in every step of the screening process and are always welcome to attend screening activities with their child.

What if my child speaks and understands a language other than English?

Every effort is made by school districts to screen children and communicate with families in their dominant language. If your child communicates best in a language other than English, make the Child Outreach Coordinator from your school district aware of this beforehand, so a translator or bilingual screener can be made available.



Why should I participate?

Because we're in this together — families and schools, caring about young children. Families have many questions about their child's growth and development. The Child Outreach Program can help you to understand how your child is doing in several areas of development (vision, hearing, speech/ language, fine and gross motor skills, social/emotional skills, etc.), and learn ways you can continue to help them grow and develop.

What happens after screening?

Screening results are reviewed by professionals from the school system. A summary of the results will be sent to you in the mail within a few weeks. In some cases you will be contacted directly by the district. Generally there are three actions that can take place following screening:

1. You receive a letter reporting that your child's development appears to be progressing along a typical path for his/her age
2. The Outreach Team requests that your child participate in rescreening (taking a second look) in one or more of the areas of development
3. Questions and/ or concerns are noted in development that warrant further evaluation to assess a possible need for early intervention services provided at no cost through your school district.

We want to ensure that **ALL** children are off to a good start before entering kindergarten. The outcome of screening is always a family decision based on the individual needs of your child.

What happens to screening results?

The results of screening are kept confidential, between families and the Child Outreach Program, unless families indicate in writing that they would like the information to be shared with their pediatrician or Early Care and Education program.

When should my child participate in screening?

Much like your well child visit with the pediatrician, children should participate in screening annually, at 3, 4 and 5 years old. Because the activities are based upon what is appropriate for your child's age and experiences at the time of screening, each screening provides families with an up-to-date check on their child's status in vision and hearing, and progress in the developmental areas.

How do I arrange screening for my child?

Screening is offered in a variety of locations such as child care settings, nursery schools, Head Start programs, public school buildings, libraries, etc. All public school systems provide ongoing screening throughout the school year.

Families can schedule a screening appointment at any time during the school year by calling their local school district and asking to speak with the Child Outreach Coordinator. Families can also visit the Early Childhood Section of the Rhode Island Department of Education website, www.ride.ri.gov, for a complete listing of names and telephone numbers of each of the district's Child Outreach Coordinators.