

**FINAL (5/14/2007)**  
**Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV Show # 309-310**  
**“Early Childhood Screening”**  
(Recording Show: Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 / 3:00-8:00 pm @ TPT)

NOTE: Hosts may wish to introduce this topic as a program about health care for your children *from birth through teenage years* and *so they are ready for school and work.*

**1. This show is about screening in early childhood. What does that mean?**

Sample Answer:

- Early childhood -- between birth and 5 years -- is a time of rapid growth when children are developing physically and socially and are gaining learning skills.
- Screening is a way of assuring you that your child is healthy and developing well.
- There are **2 types** of screening in early childhood and **both** are important:
  - **Ongoing screening** that is done when you bring your child to a clinic for a well-child visit starting as a newborn
  - A one time screening at 3 years of age – called an **Early Childhood Screening** - is done by the school district in which you live and is required before starting kindergarten.
- The ongoing screening may be called a Well-Child Visit at your clinic or if you qualify for Medical Assistance or Minnesota Care, it may be called Child & Teen Checkups.
- During a well-child visit, in addition to looking in your child’s ears and listening to your child’s heart, a doctor or nurse practitioner will also be listening to what you have to say about how your child is doing and answer any questions you may have.

**FINAL (5/14/2007)**  
**Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV Show # 309-310**  
**“Early Childhood Screening”**  
(Recording Show: Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 / 3:00-8:00 pm @ TPT)

**2. What’s the difference between Screening in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Screening?**

- An Early Childhood Screening is done at age 3 years and is **required** before your child enters kindergarten. This screening **does not include** a physical exam.
- Early Childhood Screening is offered free of charge to every 3 year old child in your school district.
- Early Childhood Screening is offered to help children become successful learners in school.
- School districts may offer free services to children who have been identified through screening to need extra help to be ready for school.

**3. Why is early childhood screening important to talk about in our community?**

Sample Answer:

- Everyone in a community benefits when an infant, toddler, or child does well in school. Children who go to school are more likely to graduate, continue their education or find employment.
- Many people do not realize that schools have resources for children from birth to age 5 who may need extra help with learning of health problems.
- Early Childhood Screenings and regular visits to the clinic can help connect parents to programs, community services and other resources that can help the child and family.
- Sometimes early childhood screenings will uncover learning, vision, or hearing problems not noticed by the child’s family.

**FINAL (5/14/2007)**  
**Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV Show # 309-310**  
**“Early Childhood Screening”**  
(Recording Show: Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 / 3:00-8:00 pm @ TPT)

**4. What is done during an Early Childhood Screening for entry into school?**

Sample Answer:

- During a screening a nurse or teacher will look at how your child sees, hears, plays, talks, and learns.
- Measuring height and weight will check your child’s growth.
- Medical staff will make sure your child has the proper immunizations (shots) that can protect him or her against some diseases.
- Communication and thinking skills will be tested to be sure the child is ready for school.
- A child may be asked to draw, balance on one foot, and stack blocks.
- Emotional and social skills will also be evaluated, which can help identify problems that might affect how well a child does in school.

**5. Why can’t screenings be done when the child gets to kindergarten?**

Sample Answer:

- The earlier a child gets the help he or she needs, the better the child will do in school.
- If you wait until kindergarten and find that your child has a problem, you have missed 2 or maybe more years when your child could have been getting help.
- Bringing children to a clinic for regular checkups AND to Early Childhood Screening at age 3 helps parents learn about other programs and services that can help children learn and do well in school.

**FINAL (5/14/2007)**  
**Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV Show # 309-310**  
**“Early Childhood Screening”**  
(Recording Show: Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 / 3:00-8:00 pm @ TPT)

**6. How much do early childhood screenings cost?**

Sample Answer:

- Minnesota Care and Medical assistance programs pay for clinic visits and for Child & Teen Checkups.
- Child & Teen Checkups will provide free transportation to a clinic if needed.
- Community clinics have a sliding-fee scale.
- The school district’s Early Childhood Screenings are free.
- (Optional if time permits) Some additional programs to help families may also be available for low or no cost:
  - Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
  - School Readiness Programs
  - WIC food program
  - Local public health agencies and home visits by nurses
  - Follow Along Program
  - Head Start

**7. What if I don’t speak English? How can I register my child for an early childhood screening?**

Sample Answer:

- Many schools, clinics and Child & Teen Checkups programs have interpreters who can help parents talk to medical staff and others.
- Language lines can also help parents with limited English skills find someone to talk to when calling a clinic or school for an early childhood screening.

**FINAL (5/14/2007)**  
**Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV Show # 309-310**  
**“Early Childhood Screening”**  
(Recording Show: Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 / 3:00-8:00 pm @ TPT)

**8. Where can parents go to get an early childhood screening for their child?**

Sample Answer:

- For well-child screenings or Child & Teen Checkups, call your local public health department or 651-489-CARE – a metro-wide referral service.
- When a child turns age 3, parents should call their local public school district to schedule or get information about Early Childhood Screening for school entrance.

**9. Is there anything else our expert guest might like to add?**

Sample Answer:

(Optional question only if time permits)

- It is important for the **whole** family to be involved in their child’s health and development – not just mothers.
- Regular visits to the clinic will help health care providers get to know families and become aware of cultural issues that can help improve health care.
- Families need to know that clinics and schools will not report illegal immigrants. The main concern of clinics and schools is the healthy development of all children, not just children born in the U.S.
- Parents need not be afraid to hear messages about learning or health problems their children may have. It does not reflect on their job as a parent. The sooner children get help the better they do in school.