

## **Developmental Screening Tools**

[Licensed ABA therapists](#) working in clinics and private practice use [Developmental Screening Tools \(DSTs\)](#) as an essential tool to assess & evaluate a patient's risk or chances of ASD. The type of screening tool the therapist uses will depend on the patient's age & target skill.

Each tool has a stipulated time range in which it should be administered. Once this assessment is finished, an ABA therapist can decide what type of treatment to provide. Below we have summarized examples of some standard Developmental Screening Tools used in ABA therapy:

### **Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)**

Because it covers the early years, that is, four months to 5 years old, the age and stage questionnaire ASQ is always used to evaluate young children, in which case the parents can participate in a 10-15-minute Interview. This way, the therapist will identify abnormalities in the child's milestone record.

### **Battelle Screening tool**

For those unfamiliar with [Batelle Developmental Inventory Screening \(BDIS\)](#), it's another effective tool for screening children between birth to 95 months old. As the

ASQ, it also screens the child's social and communication abilities. The screening results are categorized into either a pass or a fail.

### **Early Language Milestone Scale (ELM Scale-2)**

Sometimes a child exhibits signs of delayed language milestones, and the parent may be worried. In such cases, the therapist will apply the Early Language Milestones Scale (ELM Scale-2) to assess a child's language development. This tool covers receptive language, expressive language, and interactive communication; it will also provide important information about a child's verbal skills, which can help the ABA therapist figure out how best to treat the child.

### **Denver-II Screening Test**

Like the Language screening test, the Denver II also serves as an excellent tool to screen the child's language and cognitive abilities. It also screens the child's gross and fine motor skills and detects abnormalities. This test is designed for children ages 0 to six years old and always takes 10 to 20 minutes. The screening results can either be "normal," "abnormal," or questionable.

### **Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)**

The Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) is an interview form that helps to screen for developmental and behavioral problems that require further evaluation. It uses a single response form for 0-8 years of age and is intended to be a surveillance tool. This assessment allows the ABA therapist to ask specific questions about the patient's development, language, behavior, and social interactions. Based on the responses provided by the parent, the ABA therapist can determine if further testing is needed or recommend an appropriate treatment plan.

### **Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ)**

The challenge with social communication is one of the [signs of ASD](#). However, to ascertain whether a patient has social communication difficulty, the therapist will administer the SCQ, a tool to assess possible signs of autism spectrum disorder. It takes 10 minutes and includes questions to evaluate the patient's language, social interaction, and communication skills.

The screening tools in this article are just a few available in [typical ABA therapy](#). There are more than 15 screening tools that can further clarify the developmental condition of a patient.

**Reference:**

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