

Do you provide developmental screening for the children you serve? At **Birth To Three**, the parent organization of *Parenting Now!*, the goal is to screen every young child whose family participates in a parenting group.

We have found that completing the Ages & Stages Screening Questionnaires is a valuable way to identify children for referral. It also helps families learn more about what their children are doing and what to expect next.

In both *Make Parenting A Pleasure (MPAP)* and *Parenting: The First Three Years* groups, we have found that tools such as ASQ have helped to enhance parents' positive relationships with their children and their ability to have realistic expectations. We have tried completing the questionnaires in group as well as sending them home with families. In MPAP, consider introducing the ASQ in session 9, "Child Development." In the *Incredible INFANTS* we suggest completing the questionnaire in session 3, "Encouraging Your Developing Baby."

The following is information from the ASQ web site: The Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ): A Parent- Completed, Child-Monitoring System, Second Edition, is a comprehensive developmental screening tool designed to help professionals identify infants and young children who may need further evaluation for developmental delays. Research has shown that the sooner children are identified as having delays and the sooner they get help, the better their chances of making significant developmental strides. And yet, more than 70% of children who have delays are not identified until after they start school, meaning a critical missed window of opportunity for early intervention. [For more information about the ASQ... http://www.agesandstages.com](http://www.agesandstages.com)