

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS AND EARLY INTERVENTION



Every child should have easy access to the best tools to ensure that they are on track. The partners and members of the Community Impact Network's 5byAge5 coalition have worked for the past eleven years to provide these tools, to empower parents and childcare providers to ready the children of the Normandy Schools Collaborative (NSC) footprint for kindergarten, and to be on track for success. Developmental screenings are a key tool for making sure children are on track.

Early Detection

Screenings pinpoint any delays within a child's progress and help rule out possible disabilities for students that could impede their learning. By identifying these delays early, they can be addressed by providing the child with accommodations that level the playing field. The earlier educators and parents can identify issues and intervene, the less likely it is that a child will require lifelong supports.

Screening as Play

Instead of asking kids a series of questions, many screenings are done through observation of children in play-like activities. These activities put children at ease, allowing screeners to identify possible developmental or social delays. These results can then be communicated with educators and parents to identify activities and action plans that will help the child catch up as needed.

Hearing and Vision

Sometimes families struggle with issues with their child without knowing that the issue might actually be their vision or hearing. Children don't know if they are having these kinds of issues, as they assume everyone sees and hears the way they do, so they can't express this problem to adults. Instead, these issues often result in antisocial and disruptive behavior. Thankfully, through screenings and follow-ups, these issues can be addressed and corrected.



5^{by}Age5

Nationwide, only 3% of children actually receive the developmental screenings that they should receive. Approximately 2,600 children five and under live in the NSC footprint. In 2021, 5byAge5 coalition platform partners performed 994 screening tests on NSC children through the age of five to see if they were on track. Course corrections were needed for 341 of these children.

Corrections included action plans developed by coalition professionals and implemented by the staff at the childcare centers, Belle ARC speech and language groups, and interventions provided by First Steps and Special School District.



Belle Children's Services of St. Louis Arc works with childcare centers in the NSC, providing instructional assistance, and developmental assessments.
www.slarc.org

Missouri First Steps

First Steps provides services to families with children, birth to three years of age, with disabilities or developmental delays.
www.mofirststeps.com



The **Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments** partners with childcare centers throughout the NSC to provide free vision screenings for children.
www.dgckids.org



The **Normandy Early Learning Center** provides early education opportunities for children in the NSC and incorporates screenings in the early learning process.
www.normandysc.org/EarlyLearningCenter



Parents as Teachers.

Parents as Teachers works to strengthen families through an early childhood home visiting model, including assessments of children for possible delays.
www.parentsasteachers.org

5^{by}Age5



Scan this QR Code to watch our video about the importance of screenings and early intervention!

