



Early Childhood



Early Childhood Screening

First Step Toward School

672

children completed Early Childhood Screening last year.

99%

of kindergartners entering Eastern Carver County are screened by the first day of school.

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Long before children enter kindergarten they take their first step toward school during Early Childhood Screening.

Early childhood screening is required before students enter kindergarten in Minnesota public schools. This free, hour-long appointment investigates child development including fine and large motor skills, vision, hearing, and learning development.

In Eastern Carver County we are actively recruiting children to sign up to participate in screening as soon as their child turns three. There are multiple ways we invite families to participate.

- Birthday postcards at third birthday
- Personalized letters and phone calls
- Personal connections at special events
 - * Kindergarten visitation
 - * Family Learning Center open house
 - * Hooked on Books

These efforts are successful with over 99% of kindergartners screened by the first day of school.



Walk through a screening appointment

Eastern Carver County Community Education developed a video following children through the screening process. We hope to pass along to parents that screening is not a “test” children pass/fail. It is a brief check of child development compared to children at the same age. This video will be shared throughout the community. We plan to partner with local daycare and preschool facilities so they might share with their families.

Benefits of early childhood screening

Participation as soon as children turn three is ideal. The earlier the screening happens, the more time there is to address any potential learning concerns prior to kindergarten. In addition to the child development findings, early childhood screening is often the first partnership between the school district and families. We have many support systems to offer to parents including:

- Parent educators
- Home visits
- Preschool information
- Child development resources
- Carver County connections

Making a reservation is easy!

Families may reserve a screening appointment online: <http://tinyurl.com/screeningec> or by calling 952.556.7144.

Interpreters are available to attend the screening appointment on request.