



ASQ:SE™ CD-ROM About the ASQ:SE

This CD includes a series of eight questionnaires for the *Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE)* system, which were developed to assist with monitoring and identification of children from 3 months to 5½ years of age. The *Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional* are designed to complement the *Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ)* by assisting parents, caregivers, and early intervention and early childhood personnel in the timely identification of children with responses or patterns of responses that indicate possible future social or emotional difficulties. This screening tool helps to identify the need for further social and emotional behavioral assessment in children—that is, to identify those children who are in need of further evaluation and those who appear to be developing typically. Like the ASQ, the ASQ:SE system is designed to be completed by the parents or caregivers of young children rather than by trained professionals. (For more information about the development and developers of the ASQ:SE system, see *The ASQ:SE User's Guide*.)

THE ASQ:SE USER'S GUIDE AND OTHER COMPONENTS

The ASQ:SE User's Guide is a companion to these questionnaires and contains necessary information for using the entire ASQ:SE monitoring system. Procedures for planning a monitoring program, using and scoring the questionnaires, making referrals, and evaluating the monitoring program throughout implementation are included in the *User's Guide*. A number of useful sample letters and forms are also provided—in both English and Spanish—in the *User's Guide*. In addition, the *User's Guide* includes information about other ASQ products, a description of typical stages of social and emotional development, suggested intervention activities for distribution to families, and case studies, as well as a compilation of the data and analyses conducted on the questionnaires. In particular, validity, sensitivity, specificity, and overreferral and underreferral rates are addressed.

Several optional components are available. The videotape *ASQ:SE in Practice* explains in further detail how to use the ASQ:SE questionnaires in a variety of settings and explains how to score and interpret ASQ:SE results. *The Ages & Stages Questionnaires® on a Home Visit* is a videotape that describes using the ASQ questionnaires in the home environment with families. The videotape *ASQ Scoring and Referral* explains how to score and interpret ASQ questionnaire results. The *ASQ CD-ROM*, available in English or Spanish, contains all 19 of the ASQ questionnaires and scoring sheets, along with 200 intervention activities from *The ASQ User's Guide*. The *Ages & Stages Activities* contains developmentally appropriate activities, divided by age range and ASQ domain, that parents can use with their children. (See the Order Forms for ordering information for the ASQ and ASQ:SE products.)

THE QUESTIONNAIRES

The *Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional*, which are also available in Spanish, are color coded for easy reference. They are intended to be photocopied in the course of service provision to families. The questionnaires can be mailed to parents and completed by them in the home environment, with the assistance of a nurse or social worker on a home visit or during a telephone interview, by parents at a medical clinic prior to a well-child check-up, or by a child's regular caregiver at a child care center.

Each questionnaire has a title page with an area containing a shaded drawing of a parent and child. A program logo or agency contact information may be placed in this shaded area so that it will appear on all duplicated questionnaires. If the questionnaires are to be used in mail-back format, the address of the program should be on the mail-out and mail-back sheet, which is also included, for easy return by parents.

Each questionnaire contains 22–36 questions addressing seven behavioral areas: self-regulation, compliance, communication, adaptive functioning, autonomy, affect, and interaction with people. To promote read-ability and parental identification with the forms, questionnaire items are worded with alternating male and female pronouns.

Anyone who spends time with a child on a regular basis, such as parents, caregivers, foster parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, is qualified to answer the questionnaire items. If parents or caregivers are not sure whether a child exhibits a particular behavior described in a questionnaire item, professionals should not advise or lead parents but instead should encourage them to use their judgment.

Because a screening tool is brief, mistakes will occur; children who do not have difficulties may be referred for further assessment, and children with difficulties may not be identified as needing further assessment. Thus, results from the ASQ:SE will not identify which children have difficulties and which ones do not. Rather, the results will *suggest* which children should be referred for further evaluation and which ones appear to be developing typically. Because the *Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional* involve parents as screeners of their young child's development, completing the questionnaires may enhance parents' knowledge of their child's developmental status while involving them in the assessment process. In addition, serial or sequential monitoring has been shown to be more effective than one-time screening. Therefore, having parents complete the ASQ:SE questionnaires at regular intervals as their child develops may prove to be more effective and cost efficient than one-time screening programs conducted by professionals.

No one questionnaire or screening tool will be culturally appropriate for all children and families. Modifications may need to be made, such as translating certain phrases into a family's native language or seeking advice from a mental health professional who is familiar with the culture of the family to determine whether behaviors are within a cultural "norm."

If parents cannot read English or Spanish at a fifth- to sixth-grade level, someone can read the items aloud and help parents to complete the questionnaire. There are, however, some parents who may not answer the questionnaire accurately. Parents with limited cognitive abilities and those abusing alcohol or drugs are examples of parents who may have difficulty. Other professionally administered screening tools, such as those that are listed in *The ASQ:SE User's Guide*, may be more appropriate for children in these families.

SCORING PROCEDURES

The ASQ:SE Information Summary is designed to be completed by professionals and maintained by programs as a record of the child's performance on a questionnaire. A cutoff score appears on each ASQ:SE Information Summary that can easily be compared with the child's performance at that age interval to determine whether the child should be referred for further evaluation. Factors to consider when making referral decisions, such as the child's current health status and family/cultural factors such as stressful events, are also included.

The questionnaires are scored by converting each response—*most of the time, sometimes, and rarely or never*—to a numerical value. The letters Z, V, and X appear next to each check box on the questionnaires. The numerical values 0, 5, and 10 correspond to Z, V, and X, respectively. Also, each time that parents mark that an item is an area of concern, 5 points is added to the child's score. To score the questionnaire, the numerical equivalents for each answer are added together to determine a total, which is compared with the empirically derived cutoff point for the questionnaire. If a child's total score is higher than the cutoff point, the child should be referred for further evaluation. Again, more explanation of how to score the questionnaires and how to determine when to refer a child for further evaluation can be found in *The ASQ:SE User's Guide*.

A MESSAGE FROM THE AUTHORS

The *Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional* were designed to encourage screening of large numbers of children in an economical and efficient way. Our goal is to assist you in establishing a system that can identify children in need of intervention services in a timely and cost-effective manner. The ASQ:SE system works with the original ASQ to provide a more complete assessment of a child's development. The first edition of the *Ages & Stages Questionnaires®* was published in 1995; a second edition was released in 1999. We have valued the input and enthusiastic feedback we have received from the hundreds of personnel who are using the first and second edition ASQ questionnaires in screening, monitoring, and home visiting programs. The ASQ:SE contains eight questionnaires to be used at intervals at 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 48, and 60 months. This tool should assist parents, caregivers, and early intervention and early childhood personnel to identify children that may be at risk for developing social or emotional difficulties. We hope that you will find these materials of use and that, ultimately, the social and emotional developmental outcomes of young children and families will be improved.