

TIPS FOR SHARING SCREENING RESULTS

- If you have not provided screening results to parents before or are feeling nervous, prepare by role playing the conversation with a colleague.
- Score the screening instrument and provide results as soon as possible. Parents may experience anxiety while waiting for results.
- Review ASQ results in person. Schedule the conversation for a private setting where confidentiality can be maintained. Allow time to discuss questions and concerns.
- Before sharing results, remind parents of the purpose of screening. Restate that while screening can indicate the need for further evaluation, it cannot definitively indicate a delay or disability, nor can it provide a diagnosis.
- Begin the conversation by highlighting the child's strengths. Express excitement for the areas where you've seen progress.
- Choose your words carefully. Avoid using "test," "fail," "normal," and "abnormal." Instead use terminology such as "well above cutoffs," "close to cutoffs," and "below cutoffs."
- Discuss factors that may have affected a child's scores such as opportunity to try skills, health history, cultural, or environmental factors.
- Ask for parents concerns and question and listen attentively. Be open to new viewpoints.
- Emphasize parents' current skills and resources.
- Discuss next steps or follow-up. If necessary, provide information about community resources and referral options.
- If the screening results indicate a referral is needed, share with the parent your responsibility as a primary referral source to refer to the local tiny-k program. Explain that while the family can decide to turn down the referral, you are required to make a referral within 7 days of identifying the need.
- If the parent does not appear receptive to the information or seems resistant to receiving a referral, be patient. Request a follow-up meeting to answer questions and discuss concerns. A parent may need time to reflect before being ready to act.