

BRUCE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

# Journey Through the Ages and Stages

## INFORMATION PACKAGE



*Be an explorer.*

## Welcome to Bruce County's Journey Through the Ages and Stages



The first few years of life are very important for your child because they set the stage for their journey in learning. During this time, your child will gain many experiences and learn many new skills. You are an active partner in your child's learning and development, and we want to help you provide the best start for your child.

Bruce County Children's Services uses the **Ages and Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ)** to help you understand and guide your child's development. It helps parents or guardians celebrate their child's milestones and provides information on what to look for next. This journey is also an essential first step in accessing services to enhance your child's development and well-being.

When completing both the ASQ-3 and the ASQ-SE-2, you will get an overall picture of your child's development by answering questions on topics such as communication, motor skills, problem solving, personal-social skills, self-regulation, compliance, affect, and more.

To ensure the questions and responses are age appropriate for your child, it is important to **complete the questionnaires and return them to your service provider within two weeks.**

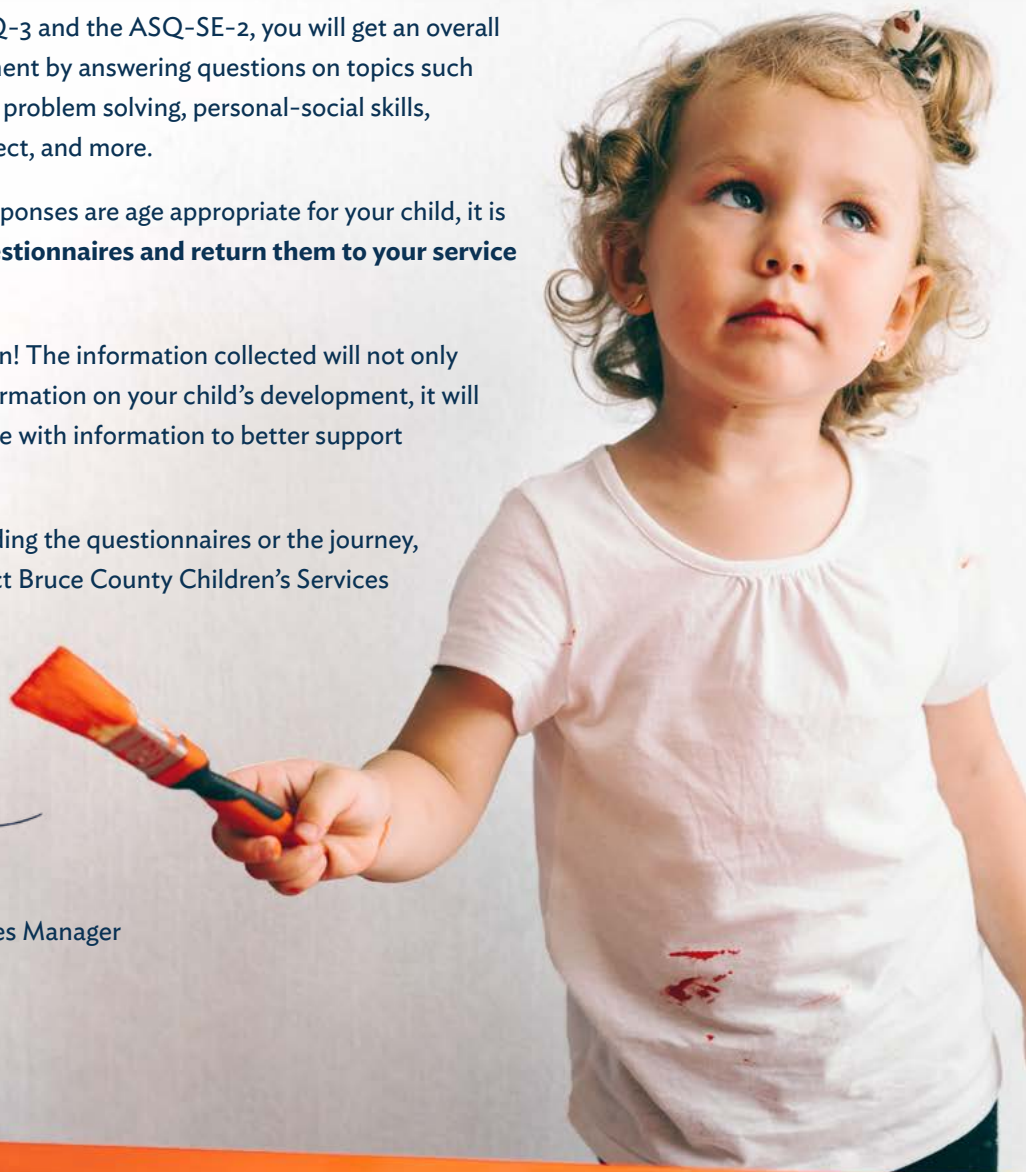
We appreciate your participation! The information collected will not only provide you with important information on your child's development, it will also provide the County of Bruce with information to better support children in our community.

If you have any questions regarding the questionnaires or the journey, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce County Children's Services at **519-881-0431** or by email at: [childcare@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:childcare@brucecounty.on.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Tina Metcalfe', is positioned above the printed name.

Tina Metcalfe  
Bruce County Children's Services Manager



## Bruce County's Journey Through the Ages and Stages

# Common Questions and Answers



### The “What”

#### What is Bruce County's Journey Through the Ages and Stages?

Bruce County's Journey Through the Ages and Stages uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) to explore developmental and social emotional progress of children. This proactive approach allows for the child care system to be responsive to children's learning, development and wellbeing.

#### What are the goals of the Journey Through the Ages and Stages?

- ✓ Parents and caregivers will be more informed regarding the developmental needs of their child(ren).
- ✓ Families will have access to services that support their child's journey in learning.
- ✓ Completing the questionnaire will help the Early Years Community in Bruce County plan and help create programs to support the needs of the child in our community.



#### What is the **ASQ-3**?

The ASQ-3 is a questionnaire that provides a quick look at how your child(ren) is doing in the following areas:

- 1 Communication:** What your child understands and can say
- 2 Gross Motor:** How your child uses their larger muscles to sit, crawl, walk, run and do other activities
- 3 Fine Motor:** How your child uses their hands and fingers to move and coordinate
- 4 Problem Solving:** How your child plays with toys and solves problems
- 5 Personal-Social:** Your child's self-help and interaction skills



## The “What”



### What is the **ASQ-SE-2**?

The ASQ-SE-2 is a tool to support early identification of young children who may be experiencing social-emotional delays. This tool can help identify and respond to parent/guardian's concerns early, so the child's behaviour does not become a barrier to a healthy relationship. The ASQ-SE-2 provides a quick look at how children are doing in the following areas:

- 1 **Self-Regulation:** Ability to calm, settle, and adjust to physiological or environmental conditions
- 2 **Compliance:** Ability to follow the direction and rules of others
- 3 **Adaptive Functioning:** Ability to cope with physiological needs (e.g., sleeping, eating, elimination, safety)
- 4 **Autonomy:** Ability to self-initiate without guidance and move towards independence
- 5 **Affect:** Ability to respond to his or her own feelings and empathy for others
- 6 **Social-Communication:** Ability to interact with others by responding to or initiating verbal or nonverbal signals to indicate interests, needs and feelings
- 7 **Interaction with People:** Ability to respond to or initiate social responses from parents, other adults, and peers

### What happens after I complete and return the questionnaires? Will I get the results?

Your completed questionnaires will be reviewed by an Early Childhood Educator (Resource Consultant) from Bruce County's Children's Services Team. If the questionnaires identify any concerns based on a validated criterion, a Bruce County Resource Consultant will be in contact with you in 4 – 6 weeks to review the questionnaires and discuss possible next steps.

If there are no identified concerns, the information will be used to help inform trends and programming needs to better serve families in Bruce County and you will not be contacted.

The “score” of the questionnaire is not as important as the resources and supports that are provided through the Journey Through the Ages and Stages process.

“The questionnaire is a good tool to see where your child's development is. My son had fun completing the questions.”

Parent/Guardian of a  
42 month old child





## The “What”

### What will happen with the information?

General information will provide the County of Bruce with data to better support children in our community.

Information about you and your child will only be shared with other agencies with your written consent.

### What if I received more than one package from a service provider?

You only need to complete one ASQ package if you choose to participate. If you completed one in the last 6 months you are not required to complete another. Please let your service provider know that you will be completing it elsewhere.

### What if my child is already involved in support services?

It is recommended that parents and guardians of ALL children between the ages of 0-60 months complete the questionnaires regardless of needs and/or current supports.

Information gathered will not only help support those in need, but it will also give the County of Bruce information on the service needs of the community for planning and service delivery.

“

**I think it's great these are being sent home so problems can be identified early.”**

Parent/Guardian of a  
36 month old child



**Do you have questions about the ASQ or would like to be sent a copy of the Questionnaire?**

Contact [childcare@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:childcare@brucecounty.on.ca) or call 1-800-265-3005.



## The “Why”

### Why should I participate?

- ✓ Your answers will help you learn more about your child’s developmental milestones.
- ✓ The questionnaires will show your child’s strengths and highlight any areas in which your child may need more help or practice.
- ✓ Your answers will be helpful in determining whether your child needs further support or assessment.
- ✓ Completing the questionnaires will help the Child Care and Early Years Community in Bruce County plan and help create programs to support the needs of children.

### Why should I complete both the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2? Some questions are repetitive.

Since there is a relationship between behaviour and development, it is important to look at both areas. The ASQ-3 explores child development whereas the ASQ:SE-2 addresses the broad and complex nature of social emotional development and behaviours. Completing both provides a more holistic view of your child’s overall development, which can help child care providers and families identify concerns earlier and make informed decisions about referrals and support.



## The “How”

### How long will it take to complete?

The questionnaires will take about 15-30 minutes to complete.

### How do I complete the questionnaires?

You will answer each question by checking off “Yes”, “Sometimes” or “Not Yet” for the ASQ- 3 and “Often”, “Sometimes” or “Rarely” for the ASQ – SE- 2 based on what your child is able to do.

To answer the questions, you can try fun and simple activities with your child to encourage them to play, move around and practice day-to-day skills.

If you need supplies (toys, bottles, dolls, etc.) to complete the questionnaires, you can visit an EarlyON Centre or borrow a kit from your licensed Bruce County Child Care Provider.



**I think it is important for parents to be aware of the stages and to be given the opportunity to work on them”**

Parent/Guardian of a  
48 month old child



## Other Questions

### Can my child care provider complete the questionnaire on my child?

The ASQs are designed to be parent/guardian completed. If you wish to have your child care provider complete an ASQ alongside you, feel free to reach out to them.

### Are there any translations of the ASQ?

Yes! The ASQ-3 is available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Vietnamese. The ASQ:SE-2 is available in Arabic, French and Spanish.

If you would like a translated ASQ, please reach out to your child care provider and we will ensure you receive the version most suitable to your needs.

### Are the ASQs available online?

Currently, an online version of the ASQ is not available in Canada. Bruce County Children's Services is working with Brookes Publishing, the developer of the ASQ, to provide an online version for Canadian residents that protects the privacy of users.

### Where can I find more developmentally appropriate activities to do with my child?

If you are interested in learning activities that are age appropriate for your child, you can email [childcare@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:childcare@brucecounty.on.ca) with your child's date of birth and we can send you some sample activities.

Stay tuned for more information on learning activities and resources for parents/guardians on the Bruce County Children's Services website: [brucecounty.on.ca/childrens-services](https://brucecounty.on.ca/childrens-services).



**Do you have questions about the ASQ or would like to be sent a copy of the Questionnaire?**

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[childcare@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:childcare@brucecounty.on.ca)  
or call 1-800-265-3005.

# Be a Part of Canada's First National Database of Child Development!

## What exactly is the Canadian National Database of Child Development?

The Canadian National Database of Child Development houses developmental scores from children birth to 5.

The scores are used to strengthen our national understanding of how children are reaching developmental milestones, as well as the developmental areas that require the most support so we can build or adapt programs and policies to address these identified needs.

## What information is included in the National Database? Why?

Scores from all 5 domains in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 (ASQ-3) and the overall score of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional:2 (ASQ-SE:2), as well as relevant demographic data, are included in the National Database.

More information regarding individual and population-level child development can help us better support your family, and families across Canada, through these early years.

## What do I need to do to provide data to the National Database?

If you have a child up to 5 years old, their ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE:2 data can be included in the National Database!

All you need to do is complete one ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE:2 provided by, or with, your childcare provider twice a year, alongside some brief demographic questions. Filling out these forms is quick and can take less than 15 minutes!

## Where is the data stored? Is it safe?

No identifiable information is added to the National Database. All data is completely anonymized before being entered into the National Database.

The data is stored on a secure server in the Centre for Advanced Computing, at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. There is no public access to the Database.



**Interested in learning more about the National Database?**

Contact Karys Peterson-Katz at [18klpk@queensu.ca](mailto:18klpk@queensu.ca)



# Bruce County Children's Services

## Child Development Partners

### Healthy Babies Healthy Children Home Visiting Program

Their team approach and array of services help meet the unique needs of your family. They will also help connect you with other services.

**FOR:** Parents/Guardians of children ages 0–6 years

**OFFERED BY:** Grey Bruce Public Health

### Speech and Language Services

They will investigate your child's speech and language challenges and provide a variety of activities to help your child.

**FOR:** Children ages 0–6 years

**OFFERED BY:** Thames Valley Children's Centre

### Child, Youth, and Family Mental Health

Provide services in home or in the child care setting for families and children who require help with their development. They will investigate your child's strengths and needs and work with you to create a plan, while addressing your concerns.

**FOR:** Parents/Guardians of children

**OFFERED BY:** Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services

### Special Needs Resource Program

Child care setting visits are available to help children who require help with their development. They will investigate your child's strengths and needs, and help create a plan to work on areas of development while addressing any concerns you may have.

**FOR:** Children attending a licensed child care or early years program

**OFFERED BY:** Bruce County Children Services

### Infant & Child Development

Delays in development or for those children at risk for developmental delay will benefit from this home visiting program that is family-centred and tailors early intervention strategies and activities to each child's needs and goals.

**FOR:** Infants, toddlers and preschool aged children

**OFFERED BY:** Community Living

### Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy

Challenges with skills such as fine motor, feeding, sensory, gross motor and help assisted devices are addressed through occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

**FOR:** Infants, toddlers and preschool aged children

**OFFERED BY:** Thames Valley Children's Centre

“I think this is very valuable for parents and for the development of local support services and programs.”

Parent/Guardian of a  
14 month old child





## Together We Can

Expand The Journey Through the Ages  
and Stages to **ALL Children** in Bruce County



Do you have questions about the ASQ or  
would like to be sent a copy of the Questionnaire?

Bruce County Human Services  
Children's Services Division  
30 Park Street Walkerton, ON NoG 2Vo

**Toll free: 1-800-265-3005**

Local: 519-881-0431

Fax: 519-881-4324

[childcare@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:childcare@brucecounty.on.ca)

[brucecounty.on.ca/childrens-services](http://brucecounty.on.ca/childrens-services)