

Head Start & Early Head Start Services Early Intervention Empowers a Student



A vivacious 2-year-old, Elora lives in Ocean County with her caring family. The CHSofNJ Family Engagement Specialist met Elora and her mom at a neighborhood outreach event. Elora's mom expressed concern that Elora was not yet speaking. Elora's older brother spoke early on and her mom wondered if her expectations were too high. Maybe Elora was not speaking because her big brother understood her nonverbal expressions and met her needs before she even had the chance to speak? Mom believed Elora understood anything that was spoken to her and followed directions as well as most 2-year-olds. The Family Engagement Specialist offered an ASQ-3 Developmental Screening and Elora's mom accepted.

Nationally, one in six children under age 5 has an undiagnosed developmental delay. The Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) is an effective tool to check a young child's development in the areas of Communication, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Problem

Solving and Personal/Social developmental areas. It helps parents understand their child's development and work with doctors and educators to plan steps to help their child reach their highest level of development.

The screening revealed communication delays, but her mom was relieved to know that Elora scored high in all other areas. She shared the ASQ-3 results with Elora's pediatrician who recommended she call Early Intervention to start speech services right away. Early Intervention specialists visited Elora at home and completed their assessment, but her mom was told that Elora did not qualify because she did not show more than one delay. They explained that to qualify for services, Early Intervention required two findings. Elora's mom presented the ASQ-3 summary showing an additional delay which qualified her for services. Without the ASQ-3 screening, this sweet, expressive child would have not qualified for the needed support she deserves to reach her full potential.