

# Screening of mental health problems among 3-year-olds

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## Why screen?

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Early identification of infants and toddlers at risk of social-emotional disorders is crucial for improving developmental outcomes.

The earlier social-emotional issues are recognized, the better the outcome is likely to be.

# The Salut Programme

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Was initiated to improve epidemiological surveillance and to develop health-promoting interventions for expectant parents and children up to 18 years.




[www.vll.se/salut](http://www.vll.se/salut)

# Data collection within the Salut Programme

CHILD HEALTH CARE CENTRE  
AND SALUT PROGRAMME IN VÄSTERBOTTEN

## 3-year questionnaire

COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF VÄSTERBOTTEN



**To be filled in at CHC**



Today's date:   /   /    
Year / Month / Day

Health centre: ..... Code:

Child's weight:    kg Child's height:    cm

Version 1, 201

Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional  
A Parent-Completed, Child-Monitoring System for Social-Emotional Behaviors  
By Jane Squires, Diane Bricker, & Elizabeth Twombly  
with assistance from Suzanne Yockelson, Maura Schoen Davis, & Younghee Kim  
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## 36 Month/3 Year Questionnaire

(For children ages 33 through 41 months)

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**Important Points to Remember:**

- Please return this questionnaire by \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your child or about this questionnaire, please call: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thank you and please look forward to filling out another ASQ:SE questionnaire in \_\_\_\_\_ months.



- ### Other questions on:
- 
- Health
  - BMI
  - Lifestyle
  - Living conditions

# The Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional

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## Social

- Self-regulation
- Communication

## Emotional

- Interaction
- Affect
- Adaptive functioning
- Autonomy
- Compliance

Please read each question carefully and

1. Check the box  that best describes your child's behavior *and*

2. Check the circle  if this behavior is a concern

MOST  
OF THE  
TIME

SOMETIMES

RARELY  
OR  
NEVER

CHECK IF  
THIS IS A  
CONCERN

1. Does your child look at you when you talk to her?

z

v

x



2. Does your child like to be hugged or cuddled?

z

v

x

3. Does your child talk and/or play with adults he knows well?

z

v

x



4. Does your child cling to you more than you expect?

x

v

z

Squires J, Bricker D, Heo K, Twombly E. Identification of social-emotional problems in young children using a parent-completed screening measure. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*; *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*. 2001;16(4):405-19.

Squires J, Bricker D, Twombly E. Parent completed screening for social emotional problems in young children: The effects of risk/disability status and gender on performance. *Infant Mental Health J*. 2004; 25(1):62-73.

# The aim of the pilot study ASQ:SE

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To study usability and feasibility of ASQ:SE for 3-year olds in Child Health Care.

To describe and analyze the progress and interventions of identified children with mental health symptoms.

Epidemiological surveillance of child health.

Early detection and interventions.

Evaluate interventions in the long run.

## ASQ:SE pilot study

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- 11 Child Health Care centers during 2012.
- 175 answered questionnaires by parents and Child health nurses.
- The parents filled out the ASQ:SE and answered another questionnaire on how they perceived ASQ:SE.
- Child health nurses filled out an opinion questionnaire on how they felt to handle and use the ASQ:SE within ordinary care.

## Results from the ASQ:SE pilot study

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- Parents perceived it meaningful and easy to fill out the form.
- Nurses generally thought that it's been helpful to use ASQ:SE as a basis for discussions with parents.
- The information obtained about the child has made it possible to follow up the child better.
- Total score for ASQ:SE was 23 points.
- 7 children > 59 p. 30 children > 30 p.
- Children without siblings had significantly higher scores.
- Boys had generally higher score than girls.
- 10 minutes to answer, to discuss and to administer the ASQ:SE.
- Training of nurses during 2013 and full-scale implementation of ASQ:SE in CHC centers during 2014.

# Future studies

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Evaluate the reliability and validity of the ASQ:SE at 3-years of age.

To identify a clinically meaningful threshold level for social-emotional problems in a Swedish context.

To describe 3-year olds social-emotional behavior, as well as trends over time.

To describe differences with respect to gender, socio-economy, and ethnicity.

To investigate relationships between social-emotional behavior at 3-years of age and risk factors related to the individual child, family characteristics and living conditions.

# To be continued!

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