The Department of Health (DH) in England is introducing the ASQ-3™ as an assessment tool that will be incorporated into the Healthy Child Programme, health and development review for 2-2½ year old children (2 year review) and will generate data for a population measure of child development at this age. The DH sought information, through independent research, on how acceptable the ASQ-3™ is to parents and health professionals (HP).

The aims of the study were to gather data from parents and HPs and evaluate the acceptability, ease of use and comprehensibility of the ASQ-3™ in order to inform its widespread use.

**Methods and Sample**

Four areas, known to be using the ASQ-3™ and reflecting different geographic and socio-demographic characteristics, were selected to take part in the study. The majority of health professionals taking part were health visitors; others included community nursery nurses and staff nurses.

- **153 parents** of children who had already had their 2 year review and **126 health professionals** completed survey questionnaires about their experiences.
- **Focus groups with health professionals** (n = 85), face-to-face interviews with **parents** (n = 40) and **observation of two year reviews** (n = 12) provided more in-depth qualitative data.

**Findings**

- **Parents and HPs welcomed a measure** that provides useful information about a child’s development.
- **The ASQ-3™ was seen as providing consistency** in assessing development.
- **Parents enjoyed the opportunity** to interact with their children and to learn something new about them.
- **Both parents and professionals welcomed** the opportunity to work in partnership.
- **There was wide variation** in how the ASQ-3™ was incorporated into the 2 year review - this was often associated with a lack of training, or training that was inconsistent across areas.
- **There was some negativity** from parents and professionals around the use of American-English, cultural factors and specific questions.

Support for the measure was tempered by the need to address specific issues. Two major issues have now been addressed:

- **providing comprehensive and consistent training** in understanding how to use the ASQ-3™ as part of the 2 year review
- **cultural adaptation to British English.**

Outcomes

This is an independent report commissioned and funded by the Policy Research Programme in the Department of Health. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Department.

**References & Acknowledgements**

- A British-English version of the ASQ-3™ is being produced in collaboration with the publishers, Paul H Brookes Publishing Co.
- In addition to translated words and phrases (see examples), the British-English version of the ASQ-3™ includes a revised, simplified, front cover which will provide parents in England with a clear understanding of the responses they can give.

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**Evaluating and Adapting the ASQ-3™ for use in England**

Introducing the ASQ-3™ to the health and development review for 2-2½ year-old children

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**Behavior – behaviour! - developing a British English version of the ASQ-3™**

A Nash & S Kendall

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**The CHEER project : evaluating the acceptability of the ASQ-3™**

A Nash, H Bedford, S Kendall, A Braun & G Bastug

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**The E-learning programme**

S Kendall & A Nash

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At the University of Hertfordshire we have created an e-learning package in conjunction with e-Learning for Healthcare. This will provide health professionals with consistent training and increase their understanding of how to use and incorporate the ASQ-3™ into the 2 year review.

The two-part programme has addressed issues that arose in the research and incorporates video clips of 2 year reviews.

- what is the ASQ-3™
- which ASQ-3™ questionnaire to use
- the population measure
- how to use it
- Incorporating the ASQ-3™ into the review
- Distributing the ASQ-3™ and preparing parents
- scoring the ASQ-3™
- the summary sheet
- understanding what the scores mean
- working in partnership with parents
- interpreting scores for parents
- the overall section
- managing difficult scores.
- using the ASQ-3™ for the first time.

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The e-learning programme was commissioned by Health Education North Central and East London working with the DH.

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