

**Early Childhood Screening** is a process that supports children being ready for kindergarten. The program helps find children with possible health or developmental concerns that may impact learning. The process includes a check of vision and hearing, child development and a review of the child's health. The program helps families access services for their children that will help them to be ready for kindergarten.

**NRHEG Public Schools recommends that children be screened between the ages of 3 & 4 years old.**

**Three reasons to screen at age 3:**

1. Screening can assist your child to be ready for school.
2. Any health or developmental concerns can be found earlier and help provided sooner.
3. Because screening is free, it's easy and it's good for your child!

**When your child turns 3 years old:**

1. Call 507-417-2667 or email: [mwhiteside@nrheg.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwhiteside@nrheg.k12.mn.us) to schedule an appointment. *You can also set up an appointment during NRHEG Panther Preschool Orientation.*
2. Complete the forms that will be sent to you.
3. Bring your child to their screening appointment, where trained staff will check your child's:
  - \* Immunization status
  - \* Large and small muscles
  - \* Vision and hearing Height & weight
  - \* Social and emotional development
  - \* Thinking, communications and language skills
4. Bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records to screening.
5. Screening is preferred at age 3, but can be done at 4 or 5 years old.

**Early childhood screening helps:**

1. You find out how your child is doing.
2. Connect you with early childhood programs and services.
3. Answer your parenting questions

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Early Childhood Screening Appointments: Call 507-417-2667

email [mwhiteside@nrheg.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwhiteside@nrheg.k12.mn.us)

Fees: Free

**\*State law requires all children to be screened before entering kindergarten.**

**Birth-5 Early Intervention:**

Birth-5 Early Intervention Intake is the first contact with NRHEG Public Schools when there are concerns about how a child is developing from birth through age 5. If you have concerns about how your child is developing and think your child may need extra help please contact us and we will connect you to special services that support children ages birth through age 5.

**Birth-5 Early Intervention Contact Information:**

Help Me Grow: Andrea Robbins, 507-835-2246, [roba@waseca.k12.mn.us](mailto:roba@waseca.k12.mn.us)

Ellendale Elementary School: 507-684-3181 (Katelyn McGowan: [kmcgowan@nrheg.k12.mn.us](mailto:kmcgowan@nrheg.k12.mn.us))

Early Childhood Screening: Macy Whiteside, 507-417-2667, [mwhiteside@nrheg.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwhiteside@nrheg.k12.mn.us)

Fees: Free

**Minnesota Department of Education Help Me Grow and Early Learning Scholarships Program**

Minnesota Department of Education offers programs to support families. Help Me Grow is an early intervention system that provides families with information and resources to support child development.

Early Learning Scholarships are available for families to increase access to high-quality early childhood programs for three- to five-year-old children with the highest needs. Priority for scholarships will be given based on family income, child poverty and geographic region.

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Early Childhood Screening Appointments: Call 507-417-2667

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