

# Greenbelt Children's Center

**Accredited by NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs**

---

Flora Gee, Director  
7600 Hanover Parkway  
Suite 100  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Telephone (301) 345-8830  
Fax (301) 345-0874  
[www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com](http://www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com)

February 17, 2020

---

## **TESTIMONY to House of Delegates, HB 396, Early Childhood Screening for Developmental Disabilities**

Hello, my name is Flora Gee and I am writing in **support of HB 369**. I am the owner of Greenbelt Children's Center, a National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited early learning center located in Prince George's County. We serve children 2-9 years of age in an inclusive high-quality early childhood program. Our program is rated at the highest level in Maryland's Quality Rating and Improvement System, MD EXCELS, and is a recipient of a PreK Expansion Grant. My center has trained our teachers on the Developmental Screening Overview that Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) created some years ago. Our Center has been screening with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) Tool and referring children to early intervention for 7 years.

We use the ASQ-3 Developmental Screening tool and have found it to be easy to use and reliable. It has allowed us to have an easier conversation with parents because we are using a reliable tool and comparing normal developmental milestones against other typically developing peers. I have never had a parent leave my program because we conduct developmental screening. We use best practices to conference with parents and parents make the determination on whether to move forward on a referral to early intervention. If parents choose to move forward and the child qualifies for services, those services are delivered at my Center which is more convenient for working parents, for children who are 2-3 years old. While we were fortunate to receive a free screening tool from MSDE during the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, cost is an issue for some providers. The ASQ-3 costs approximately \$300 to purchase and that may be costly for some providers including family home providers. While I am in favor of the Bill, I do believe there should be some funding made available to providers to gain access to screening tools and training.