One of the tools Newman uses to evaluate children applying to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten is a developmental screen to determine school readiness. The screen is administered here at Newman. It is the only formal evaluation we use for children applying to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

We have chosen to use a developmental screen because it allows us to “assess a sampling of the learning and developmental skills” of each child applying to our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, and the one-on-one time also helps us to get to know each child. The screen is just one piece of the puzzle we use in determining admission. The comments of your child’s teacher, our observations of your child in his/her current school, and the information you provide to us are equally important. To enhance the likelihood that the screening will reflect your child’s true developmental readiness and will provide information consistent with other sources of information, we offer the following pointers:

1. Please do not be anxious about your child’s screening. Your child may sense your anxiety toward the screen, and he/she will perform best if the screening is simply referred to as an opportunity for Newman to get to know your child. Avoid using words like “test” that may evoke anxiety. You might suggest to your child that Newman is a school you are considering for next year when he/she is ready for “big school” and that he/she should try to answer all the questions asked during your visit. Explain to your child that he/she may not know all the answers, but “that’s OK; just do your best.”

2. Be matter-of-fact about the screening day itself. Try to treat it as just another school day. As best you can, follow your normal routine. Maintain a reasonable bedtime, get your child up in plenty of time so he or she will be fully awake, and provide a good breakfast. If your child is scheduled for a late screening, you might have a snack before you arrive.

3. It is probably best, if your child’s screen is scheduled in the morning, that you not send your child to school the morning of the screening. Even if the screen is scheduled late in the morning, it is probably better to attempt only one outing that morning, i.e., to Newman. If your child’s screen is scheduled in the afternoon, use your best judgment as to whether a morning at school before coming to Newman is a good idea for your child.

4. Please arrive on time. Your child will benefit from not having to rush. Please enter the Lower School on Loyola Street and the security guard will let us know of your arrival. We will meet you at the Lower School entrance.
5. The screening will take approximately 30 - 40 minutes. While the screen is being administered, you may have a chance to talk about your child’s application with a representative of the Admission Office.

6. If for any reason you cannot keep your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can schedule another date.

7. Occasionally, it is necessary to terminate the testing before it is finished. Any number of factors may be involved, i.e., rapport not well established, child not feeling well, etc. Do not be alarmed if we schedule another appointment. Our goal is to provide the best possible screening situation in order to gain an accurate picture of your child’s educational needs.

If you have any questions whatsoever about the screening or about the admission process in general, please do not hesitate to call the Admission Office at 504-896-6323. We are anxious to make the process a smooth one for all concerned, and we are more than happy to discuss your concerns with you.