



# Assessment Tip Sheet

## EARLY INTERVENTION EVALUATION

Watch Now!



### WHAT IS AN EARLY INTERVENTION (EI) EVALUATION?

The process used to determine eligibility for Part C early intervention; the process used to determine the existence of a delay or disability and the child's strengths and needs in all areas.



### WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT EARLY INTERVENTION EVALUATIONS?

According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C, evaluation means the procedures used by qualified personnel to determine a child's initial and continuing eligibility. IDEA § 303.321 ensures that each child under the age of three who is referred for evaluation or early intervention services under part c and is suspected of having a disability, receives a timely, comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluation of the child unless a child's medical and other records may be used to establish eligibility. In conducting an evaluation, no single procedure may be used as the sole criterion for determining a child's eligibility. Evaluation procedures must include:

- (1) Administering an evaluation instrument;
- (2) Taking the child's history (including interviewing the parent);
- (3) Identifying the child's level of functioning in each of the developmental areas in § 303.21(a)(1);
- (4) Gathering information from other sources such as family members, other caregivers, medical providers, social workers, and educators, if necessary, to understand the full scope of the child's unique strengths and needs; and
- (5) Reviewing medical, educational, or other records.



*All evaluations and assessments of the child and family must be conducted in a nondiscriminatory manner, in the native language of the child or family, by a multidisciplinary team.*

The Wisconsin Administrative Code - Dept. of Health Services, Chapter 90.08, identifies the following in regard to evaluation.

(a) In consultation with the parent and based on the child's suspected needs, the service coordinator shall select at least 2 qualified personnel from those under par. (b) who, with the parent and service coordinator, will make up the EI team to perform the evaluation and make the determination of eligibility. Qualified personnel may be from different agencies and shall be from at least 2 different disciplines in areas of suspected need. The service coordinator may be one of the qualified personnel if the service coordinator is qualified as required under par. (b). At least one of the qualified personnel shall have expertise in the assessment of both typical and atypical development and expertise in child development and program planning.

Wisconsin's Birth to 3 Program Operations Guide  
See Ch. 6 on Evaluations



## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT EVALUATIONS IN PART C EARLY INTERVENTION?

- Evaluations are used to determine eligibility for the Birth to 3 Program.
- An early intervention team conducts a child's evaluation by collecting and reviewing information from a variety of sources, including the infant's or toddler's parent(s).
- Children who are referred with a documented developmental delay or diagnosed condition that is likely to result in a delay are eligible for early intervention services. Therefore, a comprehensive evaluation using an eligibility tool is not necessary to determine their eligibility for the Birth to 3 Program. If an EI team determines that there is adequate documentation for eligibility, they should begin their comprehensive assessment process which is required for each eligible infant or toddler.
- Evaluations and assessments can be conducted at the same time and must be provided at no cost to the family.
- Parents are key partners who participate on the early intervention team and provide essential information about their child's day-to-day activities and abilities.
- The Birth to 3 Program must conduct an evaluation when a parent requests one, whether or not the child is suspected of having a delay or disability.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF EVALUATIONS FOR PART C EARLY INTERVENTION ?

- Provides the early intervention team with information on the child's five developmental areas including cognition, physical, communication, social & emotional, and adaptive.
- Helps to determine and document a child's eligibility for the Birth to 3 Program.
- Information gathered through the evaluation and assessment processes forms the foundation for each eligible child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

## WHAT ARE THE CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVALUATIONS IN PART C EARLY INTERVENTION ?

- Examination of relevant data: What other data exists? How will this be obtained and reviewed as a part of the early intervention team's process? What criteria will you use to determine if an evaluation is necessary or there is enough data and documentation to support eligibility due to diagnosed condition or developmental delay?
- Selection of evaluation tool(s): How will you ensure that testing instruments and other procedures used by the early intervention team meet requirements?
- Team members: Which team members are qualified to administer the selected evaluation tool(s)? How will team members be selected when forming the EI Team? How will team members work together to complete the evaluation process in a collaborative manner?
- Ensuring parent and caregiver involvement: What measures will be taken to involve and engage the child's family members and caregivers that know the child best?
- Nondiscriminatory: How will you ensure evaluations are conducted in the family's native language and in a nondiscriminatory manner? How will the family's culture be respected?
- Timing: How will you complete evaluations in a timely manner in order to support the required 45-day timeline for IFSP development?
- Results: How does the evaluation tool(s) used outline how results should be interpreted? How will the results be used specifically to determine eligibility? How will results be documented and shared with families and other team members?