
Comprehensive Evaluation/Assessment Vision and Hearing Report Notice to Coordinators

BACKGROUND

The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part C requires that all infants and toddlers suspected of having a developmental delay or an established condition and are referred, have an evaluation and assessment. The purpose of the evaluation and assessment is to understand the development of the child in the context of his or her natural environment. The evaluation must include information on the child's level of functioning and need for early intervention in the following areas: (1) Cognitive; (2) Communication; (3) Social/emotional; (4) Adaptive (self-help); and (5) Physical (including vision, hearing, gross and fine motor).

REQUIREMENTS

The evaluation and assessment of each child:

1. Must be conducted by personnel trained to utilize appropriate methods and procedures;
2. May use informed clinical opinion to assist in determining eligibility; and
3. Must include the following:
 - A. A review of pertinent records related to the child's current health status and medical history.
 - B. An evaluation of the child's level of functioning in each of the following developmental areas:
 - 1) Cognitive development.
 - 2) Physical development, including vision and hearing.
 - 3) Communication development.
 - 4) Social or emotional development.
 - 5) Adaptive development.

The review of the child's health status must include the child's vision and hearing status.

Sources for vision and hearing report:

1. Recent vision and hearing report from doctor (within three months if the child is under 18 months, within six months if older). If the child is under three months

of age, the newborn hearing screening result may be used.

2. A new vision and hearing report is obtained from a doctor or health department.
 3. *Conduct an objective vision and hearing screening.*
 4. *Conduct a subjective vision and hearing screening, prior to the 45-day timeline. (See Timely Services Bulletin for information on 45-day timeline)*
 5. *Conduct an objective vision and hearing screening prior to six months of enrollment in Early On.*
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REFERENCES

The requirements delineated in this bulletin are referenced and supported in the following federal and state statutes, regulations, rules, and policies:

1. Public Law 108-446 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004, Part C
 2. Part C regulations 34 CFR 303.322
 3. Michigan State Plan, Sections V and VI
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DEFINITIONS

Assessment refers to the ongoing procedures used by appropriate qualified personnel throughout the period of a child's eligibility to identify the child's unique strengths and needs; the family's resources, priorities and concerns related to the development of the child; and the nature and extent of early intervention services that are needed by the child and the child's family to meet the previously listed needs.

Evaluation is a comprehensive procedure used by appropriate qualified personnel to verify the presence of a disability or delay, to describe the nature and extent of the disability or delay, and to determine a child's initial and continuing eligibility in the six domains of development: physical development, including vision and hearing; fine and gross motor development; communication development; cognitive development; social/emotional development; and adaptive/self help.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation and assessment must include a report on the child's vision and hearing. The evaluation team should obtain a previous report from a doctor if the report was done within three months, if the child is under 18 months, or within six months if the child is older than 18 months. If there is not a report that meets the time requirements, then the evaluator should try to get a new

test and report from a doctor. If it is not feasible to receive a vision and hearing report from a physician, a member from the evaluation team should perform a vision and hearing screening. If the evaluation team is unable to get a report from a doctor or do a screening, then a vision and hearing checklist should be completed.

**EXCEPTIONAL
CIRCUMSTANCES**

If exceptional family circumstances make it impossible to complete an evaluation and assessment, which includes a vision and hearing report within the requisite timeline, those circumstances must be documented.