

The purpose of the initial multidisciplinary evaluation is to determine a child's eligibility for IDEA Part C services. This process evaluates the child's functioning in five developmental areas: cognitive; physical, including vision and hearing; communication; social or emotional; and adaptive. The family-centered evaluation process is to gather information to determine a child's eligibility for services.

Parents are essential and participatory members of the evaluation team, and have a vital voice in making decisions about their child's program and services. Parental consent and Prior Written Notice is required before an evaluation or determination of eligibility is conducted. The *Consent: Initial Evaluation/Assessment and Prior Written Notice* form (**Appendix F**) satisfies both the PWN and parental consent requirements. (PWN is not required for an assessment, such as the annual assessment).

Prior Written Notice must also be provided to the family following the determination of eligibility, continued eligibility or ineligibility.