

Initial Child Assessment

An initial assessment of each infant or toddler with a disability must be conducted by qualified personnel in order to identify the child's unique strengths and needs and the early intervention services appropriate to meet those needs. The assessment of the child must be conducted prior to the IFSP and include the following--

- A review of the results of the evaluation;
- Personal observations of the child; and
- The identification of the child's needs in each of the developmental areas

The initial child assessment is completed by the multidisciplinary evaluation team in conjunction with the SoonerStart eligibility evaluation. Documentation of the child's needs in each of the developmental domains along with clinical observations is recorded on page 3 of the Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Child Assessment Team Summary (MECATS).

If a child is determined eligible due to an automatic qualifying condition, the initial child assessment must be completed before or at the child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting by qualified personnel representing the multidisciplinary team. A formal or standardized tool (i.e. BDI-2, ELAP, etc) may be used for the initial child assessment but is not required. Any information that provides the identification of the child's needs in each developmental domain may be documented on page 3 of the MECATS.

Initial Family Assessment

The initial family assessment must be conducted prior to or as part of the IFSP meeting in order to identify the family's resources, priorities, and concerns and the supports and services necessary to enhance the family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of the family's infant or toddler with a disability. The family-directed assessment must--

- Be voluntary on the part of each family member participating in the assessment;
- Be based on information obtained through an assessment tool;
- Include information obtained through an interview with those family members who elect to participate in the assessment; and
- Include the family's description of its resources, priorities, and concerns related to enhancing the child's development.

The family's participation in the initial family assessment is documented on the child's IFSP. Prior Written Notice is not required if the family declines to participate in the family assessment.

Ongoing Assessment

Ongoing assessment includes: periodic reviews of a child's progress toward reaching family-identified outcomes that address a child's participation in family and community life; and periodic reviews of a child's unique abilities, strengths and needs that support the development and/or revision of the outcomes on the IFSP, and assist planning for transition.

Ongoing assessment is both a formal and an informal process. Formal procedures for ongoing assessment may include the use of published developmental profiles or checklists; health and medical tests and procedures; standardized testing and/or structured observations. Informal procedures include conversations with parents and caregivers or informal observations of the children in their daily routines.