

## **Screening: An optional response to a referral to Minnesota's Early Intervention System**

### **Definition of screening procedures:**

Section 303.320 of the final regulations of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act Part C: Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers With Disabilities, defines screening as activities carried out by, or under the supervision of, the lead agency or an early intervention service provider to identify, at the earliest possible age, infants and toddlers suspected of having a disability and in need of early intervention services; and includes the administration of appropriate instruments by personnel trained to administer those instruments. This section adds new screening procedures and confirms that such screening procedures are not required under the Act; rather, using screening procedures is an option that a state may choose to include as a part of its comprehensive child find system.

Screening is included as a "core early intervention service" in Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.27(3).

### **Screening Process:**

Based on information available at or immediately following the referral of a child to a local Part C program, the program may determine eligibility based on a review of medical or other records, propose an initial evaluation, or propose to screen a child referred to the part C program to determine whether they are suspected of having a disability.

### **Screenings conducted in response to a referral must follow these guidelines:**

1. Screening must include the administration of appropriate instruments by personnel trained to administer those instruments.
2. Prior written notice (PWN) must be provided to the parent that includes all requirements of a Part C prior written notice and explains the right of the parent to request an evaluation at any point during the screening process.
3. Written consent must be obtained from the parent before screening a child.
4. The district must take appropriate action based on the results of the screening. Actions may include:
  - a) If the child is suspected of having a disability, provide a prior written notice to propose an initial evaluation. Once parental consent is obtained, an evaluation and assessment of the child must be conducted.

- b) If the child is not suspected of having a disability, provide notice of that determination to the parent. That prior written notice must describe the parent's right to request an evaluation.
5. If the parent of the child requests and consents to an evaluation at any time during the screening process, evaluation of the child must be conducted, even if the early intervention program has determined the child is not suspected of having a disability.

### **Additional recommendations for your local screening process:**

The selection of screening tools is an important consideration for use in screening young children. A list of tools approved for use by other Minnesota programs that screen young children for developmental concerns has been developed by an interagency work group and is available at the Minnesota Department of Health website:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mch/devscrn/instruments.html>.

Tools selected for use should meet high standards of technical adequacy. Read about the process used for selecting screening tools for use in Minnesota on the Minnesota Department of Health website <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mch/devscrn/criteria.html>.

While the 2011 Part C Federal Regulations do not specify the type or tool or domains to be addressed through screening it is recommended that the tools administered be sufficiently comprehensive to determine whether or not the child is suspected as being a child with a disability. If the child is not suspected of having a disability, provide information to the parent on other appropriate community resources that may be supportive to their role as the child's first and most important teacher. If appropriate, communicate with your local Early Childhood Screening program to arrange for a follow-up developmental screening near the child's third birthday.