

281—120.27(34CFR303) Comprehensive identification procedures. Comprehensive identification procedures, including screening, referral, multidisciplinary evaluation, family assessment, and eligibility determination procedures, shall be utilized across the regional programs provided by the signatory agencies and other community partners. When appropriate, all of the signatory agencies and the community partners shall participate in the evaluation of young children from birth to the age of three years, referred for early intervention services. Because the needs of infants and toddlers change so rapidly during the course of a year, certain evaluation procedures may need to be repeated before conducting the periodic reviews and annual evaluation meetings. [34 CFR 303.322(a)]

120.27(1) Screening. Screening is a brief procedure used by qualified individuals to determine a potential or suspected condition or delay in one or more areas of child growth and development. Screening results shall be used in determining the need for referral for further evaluation.

120.27(2) Referral. Referral is a systematic method or process of linking potentially eligible children to Early ACCESS for identification or further evaluation as needed. Referrals may either be verbal or in writing and must be made no more than two working days after a child has been identified by a primary referral source. Once a grantee or designee receives a referral for further screening or evaluation, a service coordinator must be appointed as soon as possible. Primary referral sources include:

- a. Parents, families or other persons designated by a parent;
- b. Other federally funded programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start and Even Start;
- c. Hospitals or high-risk follow-up programs;
- d. Physicians;
- e. Advanced registered nurse practitioners;
- f. Child care programs;
- g. Local or area education agencies;
- h. Public and private health providers;
- i. Social service agencies; and
- j. Other child-serving agencies, including those supported by community empowerment areas.

[34 CFR 300.321(d)]

120.27(3) Consent. Written parental consent shall be obtained before evaluations are conducted, in accordance with rule 281—120.67(34CFR303). Parents have the right to refuse evaluations and assessments for their child. [34 CFR 303.404]

120.27(4) Evaluation. Multidisciplinary evaluation includes those procedures used by appropriate qualified personnel to determine a child's initial and continuing eligibility for Early ACCESS and to gather information for planning to address the needs of the child and the child's family. Evaluation shall be provided at no cost to parents. In addition, evaluation must:

- a. Be conducted by two or more personnel trained to utilize appropriate methods and procedures;
- b. Be based on informed clinical opinion; and
- c. Include the following:
 - (1) A review of existing data, including screening results, evaluations, and pertinent records related to the child's current health status and medical history;
 - (2) An evaluation of the child's level of functioning in developmental areas, including cognitive development, physical development including vision and hearing, communication development, social or emotional development, and adaptive development; and
 - (3) An assessment of the unique needs of the child in the above-listed developmental areas. [34 CFR 303.322(b),(c); 303.521]

120.27(5) Family assessment. Family assessment must be family-directed, voluntary on the part of the family, and designed to determine the resources, priorities and concerns of the family and the identification of supports and services necessary to enhance the family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of the child. If an assessment of the family is carried out, the assessment must:

- a. Be conducted by personnel trained to utilize appropriate methods and procedures;
- b. Be based on information provided by the family through a personal interview; and
- c. Incorporate the family's description of its resources, priorities and concerns related to enhancing the child's development. [34 CFR 303.322(d)]

120.27(6) *Determination of eligibility.* The multidisciplinary IFSP team, described in rule 281—120.35(34CFR303), shall determine eligibility of children for early intervention services based on the definition of “eligible children” in rule 281—120.4(34CFR303). [34 CFR 303.300]