

# Updated Evaluation, Assessment, and Eligibility Guidance

## Frequently Asked Questions

*LLA Meeting, February 26, 2019  
Revised May 20, 2019*

**When completing re-evaluation, can you write a report and upload it to documents in the Data Management System (DMS) and reference your report for the present levels of development?**

Yes.

**How does this guidance relate to children who qualify based on diagnosis likely to result in developmental delay?**

This guidance applies to those children as well.

**If a parent does not agree to having an evaluation to determine ongoing eligibility, wouldn't you assume that they would dispute the decision?**

It's certainly a possibility and you would need to follow procedural safeguards if they wish to dispute.

**"Needing services" and meeting ESIT eligibility requirements are a bit different.**

Providers are able to determine the need for ongoing services without standardized scores if necessary. The team, including the family, should begin with a discussion on how everyone feels the child is doing and whether or not the child should continue to receive services. If the providers feel strongly that the child is no longer eligible and the parent disagrees and does not consent to an evaluation, the providers can move forward with their professional opinion based on progress, goal achievement, and other factors.

**Isn't this a conversation between families and providers regarding addressing the developmental concerns the families may have? I am concerned the decision is weighted heavily on the professional side and not the family.**

The conversation should always include the family and include discussion about their concerns. Ultimately, if the providers on the team feel strongly that the child is no longer eligible, then they are able to exit the child. The family has the right to dispute that decision and it is important to give prior written notice and be sure they are fully informed about the reasons for the eligibility decision.

**Can providers substantiate the decision to exit a child as no longer eligible based on ongoing assessment results rather than standardized scores?**

Yes. It is recommended that you first attempt to complete an evaluation but if the parent declines you may use current assessment results.

"Current" is determined by the child's age at the time of re-evaluation:

- If the child is 12 months or younger the assessment information must be less than three months old.
- If the child is older than 12 months, the assessment information must be less than six months old.

**If the parent is only concerned about communication, can we do a standardized tool only in the area of communication and use prior results for the other areas of development?**

No. All areas must be evaluated if the child was previously found not eligible and more than three months have passed.

**Can you share strategies for the three-month rule of re-evaluation when many instruments don't suggest using for at least six months?**

You will need to use a different tool.

**When will these guidelines for ongoing eligibility be available?**

ESIT will distribute a clarification memo with this guidance in the interim while practice guides are being updated.

*If you have further questions, please email your Program Consultant.*

