earlySteps
louisiana's early intervention system

EarlySteps Eligibility Criteria Changes | Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Should the EI consultant be required to give the Informed Clinical Opinion Tool?**
   No – the EI consultant should review the submitted documentation to make sure the process is followed. If there are questions, the EI consultant can participate in the process through the team meeting to discuss questions/issues and contribute her expertise to the decision making.

2. **For kids who score positive on the Autism screening – can we use this process?**

   Can a positive Autism screen be considered a second qualifier?

   If a child only has a delay in only one area but scores positive on the autism screening, the BISCUIT results can be used with the other information collected and reviewed with the ICO tool to make a decision about ongoing eligibility.

3. **For children who qualify using the ICO – will the IFSP be held at another time or can it be done at this meeting?**
   If all of the required information is available for the team to make the eligibility decision using the ICO, it can be done at the eligibility meeting. If supporting documentation is not available, another team meeting will be necessary.

4. **Due to the new changes, providers will be looking to add additional services –what must they do**?
   The same as currently required: the team must use the *Services Decision Process* and make the decision as a team using objective data.

5. **Will the SPOE be responsible for tracking those kids that do not qualify under the new eligibility criteria?**
   A tracking sheet and instructions were sent to the SPOE's on May 3, 2012 to use for children who "screen out" with the ASQ and do not meet the eligibility criteria, for following those children.

6. **Has EarlySteps considered a mass exodus of FSCs?**
   EarlySteps understands the impact of this change on our system on all of our providers—FSC's, special instructors, etc. We have worked very hard over the past 5 years to build our provider availability. It is an unfortunate outcome of this budget decision.

7. **When holding a 6 month review for a child in transition – do we still have the transition meeting?**
   When we are closing a child at their 6 month review do we do the transition meeting and forward everything to the LEA at that time also?

The transition meeting requirements should be met. If the child will exit before the third birthday and after 2 years, 2 months, the LEA should participate in the meeting, information given about the LEA, and activities to support the transition steps and services should be addressed. The families are to be reminded to stay in touch with their LEA contact person, so that potential entry at age 3, if they are eligible, is timely.

8. **At the 6 month review do we decide as a group if the child is still eligible or not?**
Ongoing eligibility is determined by review of initial assessment and other information for children who entered within the past 6 months and is a team decision.

9. **After reviewing the FSC/SPOE April 16, 2012 memo from Brenda Sharp again I have a question as to what paperwork to complete?**

If we are going to meetings where the 6 month review would have been due but we are stating the child is not eligible due to new criteria, do we complete the eligibility paperwork stating child is no longer eligible? Or do we do a 6 month and negate all the services?

You will be doing eligibility re-determination at the 6 month review, so you will do the associated paperwork and close the case as of the end date on the current service authorizations, with the paperwork required for that as indicated in the Practice Manual.

10. **When a child has a documented medical diagnosis do they still need to score 1.5 standard deviations below the mean in another area to be eligible for services?**

No—a child with an established medical condition on the eligibility list is not affected by the eligibility criteria change. A child with a medical diagnosis who has no ongoing developmental needs identified by the team, does not have to remain in EarlySteps, just because of the diagnosis (this is not a change).

11. **When using the Informed Clinical Opinion Team Process form, which pages are turned in?**

The Tool is 5 pages as distributed. Page 1 explains the scoring. Pages 2 and 3 are the actual form: Page 2 is where team members sign and documentation/observation information is provided and page 3 is the actual scoring. Pages 4 and 5 give an example of how the form is used. Only pages 2 and 3 need to be completed and turned in by the IC/FSC.