



Early Intervention

Family Guide to the Eligibility Evaluation

What is the Eligibility Evaluation?

Early intervention (EI) is a federal program for children from birth to age three who have developmental delays or are at risk of a developmental delay. After your child is referred, they will be evaluated to see if they are eligible for EI services.



Frequently Asked Questions



Who will evaluate my child?

Your child will be evaluated by a team of at least two providers from your EI program.

How will I know what my child will be evaluated for?

Your EI provider will use the Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI) to evaluate your child's eligibility for EI services. They will let you know in writing what other assessments may help inform your child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Will they need my permission to evaluate my child?

Your EI provider must get your written permission before they can start the evaluation.

How long does the evaluation process take?

After your child is referred to early intervention, EI programs must complete an initial evaluation and assessment and hold an IFSP meeting with your child and family within 45 calendar days.





Ways to help you prepare:



1 Check your schedule to see when you're available for the evaluation and assessment.

- Avoid dates that conflict with other appointments or commitments.
- Try to schedule a time that does not conflict with your child's nap or meal times.
- You can request an extension to the 45-day timeline if it would create a hardship for your family.
- Tell your EI provider when you or your child are not available. Providing dates in advance that work best can be helpful.

2 Think of what you want to ask and say.

You are welcome and encouraged to ask questions throughout this process. Some ideas to prepare:

- Write down strengths, concerns and questions etc. You might send yourself a voicemail or text with these items listed out or ask a family member to help by keeping a list for you.

3 You know your child.

If your child does things they don't normally do or doesn't do things that you regularly see them doing, let the evaluation team know.

What happens next?



If your child is eligible for EI services, the EI program will schedule a meeting with you to create an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP).



To learn more about Early Intervention in Massachusetts visit mass.gov/EIFamilies