

## Screening in Early Intervention: Facts for Families

### **What is screening?**

Screening is one of the first steps in the Early Intervention (EI) process. It is a *quick* look at your child's development in areas such as seeing and hearing; babbling, talking and understanding; playing with others; eating, learning; and how your child moves his body or uses her muscles. The screening helps you and the EI program learn about how your child is developing and any worries you have.

After the screening, you and an EI staff person will talk and decide if more evaluation is needed. You have a right to ask for an evaluation, regardless of the results of the screening.

### **What happens during screening?**

During screening, EI staff will ask questions about what your child does every day. The screening may happen in your home, over the phone, or questions may be mailed to you to look over and answer.

As you are answering the questions, be sure to share anything about your child that you think may be important. You may want to use your own toys or things in your house to play with your child and then decide how to answer some of the questions.

### **What will the screening results tell me?**

The screening does not tell you if your child has a delay in development, a disability or if your child is eligible for Early Intervention services and supports.

After the screening has been done, EI staff will go over the information with you. Be sure to ask questions or share concerns if the results do not seem to describe your child well.

You and the EI staff person may decide there is no need for additional evaluation. This means that your child's growth is typical for their age, and that EI supports and services are not needed. If you have additional questions about how you can help your children's learning and development the EI staff person can help answer questions and offer ideas.

If the screening says a closer look at your child's development is needed, the next step is to set up an evaluation. The evaluation will gather more information to see if your child is eligible for EI services.

You have the right to ask for an evaluation, no matter the results of the screening. Also, you can call your EI program at any time, to ask for a MDE.