

# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS ELIGIBILITY AND FUNCTIONAL SCREEN

Children's long-term support programs can offer children a range of supports and services to live their best lives in their homes and communities. This document explains the process for finding out whether the child in your care has needs that make them eligible to receive those supports and services. The tool to determine this is known as the functional screen.

## What should I expect during the screening process?

To start the process, a certified screener will meet to ask questions about the child, their diagnosis, needs, abilities, and challenges in daily living. This is the time to provide any information that will help the screener understand the child's needs. The information shared with the screener will help them complete the functional screen accurately.

It can be hard to talk about a child's challenges because their needs do not say everything about them. Each child is unique and has many strengths. However, for the purposes of the functional screen, the screener will need to ask questions such as, "What would happen if you did not assist the child in that way?" and "What happens when things just don't go right?" Caregivers do things to help children be as successful as possible throughout the day. It is important to share what steps have been taken to ensure a child's success, and what would happen if those things weren't done. For this part of the conversation, you may wish to consider if you want the child to be present.



## What happens after the functional screen?

With permission, the screener may reach out to others, such as school staff and health care providers, for more information. Once the screener has all the information, they will complete the functional screen. Families may request a copy of the functional screen. Families must be notified of eligibility no later than 45 days from the first time the family called to ask about getting supports and services.

Parents and guardians have the right to appeal this decision if there is disagreement. If the child meets all eligibility criteria, the screener will provide information about next steps to enroll a child in programming.



## What is the level of care needed to be eligible?

There are three ways a child can be found eligible. A child first needs to have a physical disability, developmental disability or a social emotional disability. The screen considers the combination of a child's diagnosis, all of a child's needs, and services/interventions when determining functional eligibility in each category.



Level of Care			
	Physical Disability	Developmental Disability	Social/Emotional Disability
What type of diagnosis makes a child eligible?	Medical or physical disability diagnosis	Intellectual disability or related diagnosis	Mental health diagnosis
What types of needs will make a child eligible?	Health related services needed and limitations in daily living; or four limitations in daily living*	Three or more substantial limitations in daily living*	Behavioral* or social needs* that are interfering with the child's ability to meet developmental milestones and/or require intervention to prevent harm to self or others
What intervention information is reviewed?	Amount and frequency of services	Amount and frequency of services and interventions	Frequency of behaviors and types of interventions and services

### \*Areas of Daily Living Skills, Behavioral, and Social Needs

Bathing	Eating	Communication	Lack of behavioral control
Grooming	Toileting	Learning	High risk behavior
Dressing	Mobility	Social competency	Aggression toward self or others