

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR  
EARLY INTERVENTION (E.I.) THERAPY EVALUATION PROVIDERS**

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Professional level providers for developmental, occupational, physical and speech therapies, and, as of September 1, 2003, all credentialed disciplines, who wish to provide evaluation services to determine initial eligibility and assessment services to facilitate the development of a comprehensive IFSP must:

- Demonstrate no less than three years pediatric experience with no less than 20% of that experience related to infants and toddlers between birth and three years of age or the equivalent such as one year experience with 60% related to infants and toddlers.
- Have 6 months pediatric post degree supervision.
- Document they have not been indicated as a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect in an investigation by Illinois or another state for at least the previous five years as specified in the Evaluation/Assessment Provider Agreement.
- Demonstrate competency in using and interpreting a variety of approved assessment tools related to their discipline by participating in evaluator specific training.
- Demonstrate past work as a member of a service team and agree to work with the service coordinator, other evaluators and the family as an effective team member, as indicated in the Early Intervention Evaluation/Assessment Provider Agreement.
- Agree to participate in IFSP meetings as specified in the Early Intervention Evaluation/Assessment Provider Agreement.
- Perform evaluation/assessments and pre-sent recommendations thereon, consistent with DHS therapy guidelines and early intervention philosophy, & provide adequate justification for recommendations.
- Agree to participate in routine Quality Assurance and/or Early Intervention Monitoring activities conducted by the Department or it's designee, or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.
- Agree to comply with all applicable federal and/or state laws, rules, regulations, policies, provider agreement and procedures and guidelines.

**GUIDELINES:**

Professional level providers who wish to provide evaluation services to determine initial eligibility and assessment services to facilitate the development of a comprehensive IFSP must request and complete an application packet from the Department designated entity. This packet will include an Individual Provider Agreement for Authorization to Provide Early Intervention Evaluation/Assessment. The list of all evaluators credentialed to perform evaluations/assessments will be posted on the web site of the Department designated entity where they can be accessed by Child and Family Connections staff.

Credentialed/enrolled professional level staff who do not meet the qualifications listed herein may not provide evaluation services to establish initial eligibility or assessment activities to facilitate the development of the initial comprehensive IFSP. Assistant level providers may not provide any Evaluation, Assessment or IFSP Development services.

Qualified Evaluation/Assessment providers may make opportunities available to credentialed/enrolled professional level staff, including credentialed associate level Speech-Language Pathologists in their Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY), for observation and supervised participation in initial Evaluations and assessments. These evaluations and/or assessments would be authorized to and billed by the qualified Evaluation/Assessment provider. Credentialed/enrolled professional level staff, including credentialed associate level Speech-Language Pathologists in their Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY), who are not yet approved initial Evaluation/Assessment providers would not be allowed to bill for this time, but with documentation of completion could count this time toward the experience needed to become an initial Evaluation/Assessment provider.