

## Memorandum

To: Directors of Special Education; Early Childhood Special Education Coordinators and Lead Teachers  
From: Barbara O'Sullivan, Supervisor of Early Learning Services  
Re: Bayley-III  
Date: March 9, 2006

Eligibility for early childhood special education services for children under age three, established in Minn. Rule 3525.1350 can be determined using any of the following four options:

- The child can meet criteria for any of the disability categories,
- The child can be medically diagnosed to have a syndrome or condition known to hinder normal development,
- The child can be less than 18 months of age and be determined to have a delay in motor development of -2.0 standard deviations or greater, or
- The child can be determined to have a delay in overall development demonstrated by a composite score of 1.5 standard deviations or more below the mean.

Harcourt Assessment has recently released the third edition of the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development (Bayley-III). MDE is aware that many districts have purchased this new tool and that training is occurring. Questions have been raised regarding the use of the resulting scores to address eligibility for infants and toddlers younger than 3.

The Bayley-III was designed to be used to measure the abilities of children from one month up to 42 months and to address each of the developmental areas required by Part C of IDEA. Specifically, those areas are cognition, language, physical development (motor), social-emotional development and adaptive development.

The cognitive, motor, and language scales must be directly administered by an appropriately trained professional. The social-emotional and adaptive behavior domains are evaluated through questionnaires that parents or other significant caregivers complete based on their daily observations of the child's behavior. Composite scores are obtained for each domain.

Acknowledging that the Bayley-III does not provide a composite score of overall development, MDE will permit the use of a delay of -1.5 standard deviations or more below the mean in any one of the five domains, in combination with informed clinical opinion, to determine eligibility for early intervention services for children under age 3. Motor development is the single exception to this, given the language in our existing rule. A child less than 18 months of age must have a delay of -2.0 standard deviations to be

determined to have a delay in motor development, as per existing state rule. Children from 18 months to 3 years of age may be determined eligible with a -1.5 standard deviation delay in motor development.

Similarly, the Mullen Scales of Early Learning allow a team to address 3 of the 5 developmental domains included in IDEA (cognition, language and motor development) following guidelines included in the Mullen's administrative manual. Administration of the Mullen Scales in combination with the Vineland Social-Emotional Early Childhood Scales (Vineland SEEC) results in evaluation of all five required domains. Resulting scores of -1.5 standard deviations on any of these scales may be used to determine eligibility.

Determining eligibility under developmental delay for children ages three through six is appropriate when a child has either a diagnosed syndrome or condition known to hinder normal development and a need for special education or the child has a delay of 1.5 or more standard deviations below the mean in two or more areas of development (cognition, communication, motor, adaptive/self-help, or social-emotional development). Minnesota Rule 3525.1350 subp. 3(B)(1)(b) specifically prohibits the use of subtests, not designed by test developers to stand alone. The rule does not prohibit appropriate the use of scores obtained from developmental scales which have been designed by the test developers to stand alone.

Please address questions regarding the content of this memo to Lisa Backer at [Lisa.backer@state.mn.us](mailto:Lisa.backer@state.mn.us).