

Informed Clinical Reasoning Checklist

This checklist includes practices that are important for using informed clinical reasoning/opinion for evaluation and eligibility determination. This checklist can help individuals and team members ensure that the evaluation and assessment informs an accurate eligibility determination. The checklist indicators can be used to develop a plan.

to promote a formalized and structured process using informed clinical reasoning for eligibility determination.

The checklist rating scale can be used for a self-evaluation to determine whether the different practice characteristics were part of using the practice when conducting an eligibility determination.

Practitioner: _____ Child: _____ Date: _____

Please indicate which practice characteristics you were able to use as part of evaluation and assessment of a child:	Seldom or never (0 - 25%)	Some of the time (25 - 50%)	As often as I can (50 - 75%)	Most of the time (75 - 100%)	Notes
1. Work as a team with the family to identify the child's strengths, skills, behaviors, and concerns as the focus of the evaluation or assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Use multiple methods and procedures to evaluate and assess the child's behavior (e.g. observations, rating scales, parental interview and report, review of records, assessment instruments)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Gather information from the parents and others who know the child	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Gather evaluation and assessment information in multiple settings by observing the child's participation in everyday activities, routines, and play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Work as a team to compile the results from the assessment tools, methods, people, and settings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Describe unusual, questionable, or atypical child behaviors (e.g., responses to sensory stimuli; abnormal muscle tone, reflexes, range of motion, and poor quality of movement; failure to initiate or respond to social interactions; restrictive or repetitive interests or behaviors that interfere with skill development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Engage the team in summarizing and describing the impact of the child's delays and differences in terms of needing early intervention or preschool special education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Reach a consensus concerning eligibility based on all the available evaluation and assessment information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Provide the parents an easily understood written summary of (a) the methods and procedures used to assess the child's functioning and (b) the team's decision and rationale about the child's eligibility for early intervention or preschool special education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

This checklist is based upon the following *DEC Recommended Practices*: Assessment 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11

The DEC Recommended Practices are available at <http://dec-sped.org/recommendedpractices>

Access this checklist and other products at <http://ectacenter.org/decrp>

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