



# Missouri First Steps

*Using the DAYC:  
Developmental Assessment of  
Young Children*

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2009



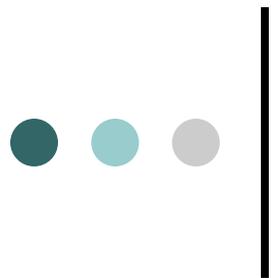
# Missouri Program Needs

A need for state-wide consistency in:

Evaluation tool

Reporting of results

Determining eligibility



## Missouri Program Needs, cont'd

A need to distinguish between:

**Screening** – an inexpensive and quick snapshot to establish if there is reason to suspect a delay.

**Evaluation**- completed to assist in determining eligibility

**Assessment** – may be formal or informal but a comprehensive report to assist in IFSP development.



# Evaluation

Standardized, norm-referenced tools

Compare child's performance to that of other children (normative sample)

Generally normed on typically developing population

Uses specialized and/or standardized materials

Limited in scope (eligibility determination vs program planning)

Items typically not functional (statistically selected)

Used to generate a developmental age or percentile score for individual child (age equivalents not recommended for use)

Examples: DAYC, Bayley, Battelle, Peabody, LAP-D



# Assessment

Comprehensive assessment of a child's development

Criterion-referenced / Curriculum-Based  
Tool for comparing a child's performance to him/ herself over time

Assessment can be formal (testing) or informal (observation, interview with the parent, etc.)

Administered by qualified personnel

Examples: HELP, AEPS, Carolina, ELAP



# Evaluation in Missouri

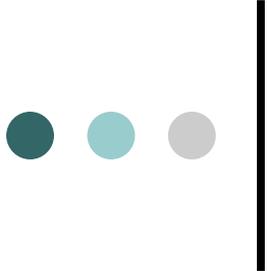
Missouri identified the DAYC as a uniform instrument to determine eligibility

## Examiner Qualifications include:

- Formal training in assessment procedures

- A thorough understanding of testing statistics and general procedures governing test administration, scoring, and interpretation

The DAYC can be administered by a variety of evaluators for all domains to determine eligibility (e.g., a speech therapist can assess all 5 domains, not just the communication domain)



# DAYC: *Developmental Assessment of Young Children*

Norm-referenced tool, standardized

Representative of U.S. population (1269 children in 27 states)

363 items; 50-100 minutes

Scores can be reported as quotients, percentiles, or age equivalents

Items scored “passed” (1) or “not passed” (0)

English language\*

Differs from other Evaluation Tools

More comprehensive

Has more functional items that could be translated into outcomes and strategies



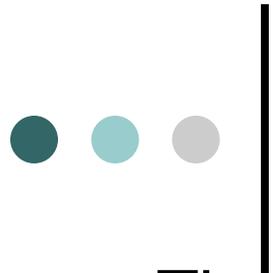
# Overview of the DAYC

It is designed for children from birth through 5 years 11 months of age.\*

The DAYC is designed to be completed through observation in the child's natural setting.

If certain skills are not observed, primary caregivers can be interviewed to gain the information.

The key is to keep the feel of the setting as informal as possible. If you know that the child's environment does not contain items necessary to complete the assessment, then bring them with you.

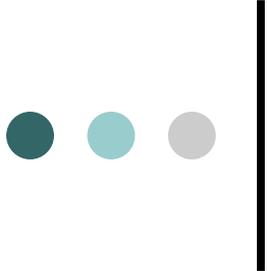


# Overview cont'd . . . . .

The DAYC consists of five subtests:

- Cognition
- Communication
- Social-Emotional
- Physical Development
- Adaptive Behavior

Each of the subtests relates to the domains that are evaluated for early intervention eligibility and children's developmental performance in accordance with the IDEA.



# Determining Eligibility with Developmental Delay

Multidisciplinary means the involvement of 2 or more different disciplines or professions. (The Intake Service Coordinator can be considered one of the disciplines.)

(34 CFR 303.322)

No single procedure is used as the sole criterion for determining a child's eligibility. Thus eligibility is not based solely on the results of the DAYC. (34 CFR 303.323)

## 50% delay

In one domain

Based on tests scores in addition to observations, parent report, informal measures, checklists, etc.

## ICO

Atypical development

Based on tests scores in addition to observations, parent report, informal measures, checklists, etc.



# Using the DAYC for IFSP Development

Evaluator and Service Coordinator work together to share information & reduce duplication by the family  
“telling their story twice”

Present Levels

Suggestions for the family



# Summarizing the DAYC

SPOE Regions have been using the DAYC in varying degrees since October, 2008.

As a program, there is a need to focus on a statewide consistent screening process.



# Additional Guidance

Testing children under the age of 12 months

Identifying evaluators or organizing evaluation teams

Adjusted age for prematurity

Informal/formal assessment

Report writing

Transition to ECSE



Training Power Point, Q & A's and other DAYC resources available on the First Steps web-site

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/DAYCindexpg.htm>