



## HELP (Hawaii Early Learning Profile)

### ? Age of child at time of assessment, and 'rounding scores.'

Seldom are children evaluated or assessed on their birth date. While this would make scoring any tool easier, odds are a child's age would be reported as '9 months, 8 days,' or '13 months, 21 days'. The question is whether you 'round' the child's age up or down to the nearest month. This becomes particularly important if you are also rounding in calculating the final domain scores. Generally, the results will be more accurate if both the child's chronological age and calculated developmental age range are rounded **before** subtracting each developmental age in the range from chronological (or adjusted age) to get the months of delay.

### ? Determining eligibility with wide-ranging domain scores.

Many CBA providers have asked questions about how to determine a child's Part C eligibility when the domain scores on the HELP Strands has a range of more than 15 percentage points (e.g., 0-30% delay, 0-60% delay). Per your experiences in using the HELP Strands so far, this pattern of scores may be occurring with especially young children (< six months of age). Below are some suggested guidelines to use in this situation:

1. Remember that the age ranges listed by each skill in the HELP Strands is an approximate age range in which the skill will emerge (not be mastered). It is only if the skill has not emerged within this range that any delay should be considered.
2. DO NOT average the domain scores, or choose the midpoint to derive a single score.
3. When the range of the domain score is greater than 15 percentage points:
  - a. Attempt to contact the family—by the most efficient means—for any additional information related to the CBA items in question that might assist you in 'tightening' the range of the domain score
  - b. If it is not possible to contact the family for additional information, consider the following logic: The domain score represents a single snapshot of the range of skills demonstrated by the child or reported by the family at the time of the CBA. **If the high end of the domain score range is at or above BabyNet eligibility criteria for developmental delay, it is a result of the child's inability to demonstrate item(s) within that domain that the tool indicated to be age appropriate—even if the low end is '0' or the difference is more than 15 percentage points.** Use the high end of the domain score range as an indicator of developmental delay in that domain.
  - c. Should there continue to be concerns about the validity of the CBA scores and/or the initial eligibility decision, the instructions for Section 8 of the IFSP indicate the following:

**'Eligibility Review Notes:** If there are any comments and/or concerns in reference to Eligibility, they can be captured in this section.'

Therefore, the Eligibility Review Team has some latitude in recommending that the curriculum-based assessment be repeated prior to the six-month review of the IFSP, based upon the findings of initial CBA. This would be documented in Section 8 of the IFSP under 'Eligibility Notes.'

## AEPS (Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System)

### ? 'Accuracy' of AEPS in identifying gross motor delays.

Several users of the AEPS have reported that this tool seems less sensitive in accurately identifying delays in gross motor development. Because the AEPS is based upon assessment of--and sequence of acquisition of--function skills, it does not include the same stages of skill acquisition as other CBAs that are anchored upon the age at which a child acquires certain skills. If the results of the AEPS do not seem consistent with observations of the child, or report by the parent, it may be useful for participants of the eligibility review team to consult another CBA tool prior to determining that the AEPS is 'wrong.'

For example, a child aged 9 months who does not yet sit alone (without hand support) would not be considered 'delayed' in motor skills using the AEPS. The HELP reports this as an emerging skill at 8-9 months of age (skill ID # 3.51), and the Carolina Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs indicates that this is a skill typically demonstrated around 9 months of age (skill ID 26.d). Consulting other tools to assist in confirming the results of the AEPS can help in verifying the presence or absence of delays, as well as making appropriate eligibility decisions. Remember that any CBA is a snapshot of the child's development at a given point of time. The participants in the eligibility review process can recommend that the CBA be updated in 3 to 6 months of the Initial IFSP.