

Presumptive Eligibility Protocol

This protocol was developed to identify the youngest children possible to receive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services through BabyNet. To identify the youngest children possible to receive ABA services through BabyNet, BabyNet now allows for a presumptive eligibility under autism. The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) and the Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children (STAT) will be used to determine presumptive eligibility.

Screening Tools

The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)

The M-CHAT is a validated screening tool that will be used as an initial screening for toddlers between 18 and 33 months of age to assess risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The primary goal of the M-CHAT is to maximize sensitivity, meaning to detect as many cases of ASD as possible. Therefore, there is a high false positive rate, meaning that not all children who score at risk for ASD will be diagnosed with an ASD. To address this, a structured follow-up interview was developed for use in conjunction with the M-CHAT, the M-CHAT Follow-up Interview. The interview is designed to reduce the false positive rate (false positive cases are children who fail the M-CHAT but do not have an ASD).

The Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children (STAT)

The STAT will be used as a second-level screening for children already identified by the M-CHAT as at risk for an autism spectrum disorder. A failed score on the STAT indicates the need for further autism-specific assessment and will be viewed as a presumptive eligibility for ABA services through BabyNet.

Use of the M-CHAT and STAT

1. If a child is between 18 and 33 months of age and a parent or one or more team members have a concern about an ASD, the Early Interventionist (EI), Primary Care Provider, or Child Care Staff who has the appropriate training should administer the M-CHAT as an initial screening for an ASD. It is recommended that this screening occur at 18 and 24 months.
2. If the M-CHAT is passed, the child's development should continue to be monitored. The M-CHAT may be administered again in three (3) months if there continue to be concerns about an ASD or if new concerns arise.
3. If the M-CHAT is failed or the screening is passed and the parents still have concerns, the EI should make a referral to an approved STAT clinician who will complete the M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview. The list of approved STAT clinicians may be found at:

[Providers Approved to Administer the STAT Updated August ...](#)

- To make the referral, the EI should share the list of STAT clinicians with the parents so a selection can be made. Parents should make at least three prioritized selections. Once the selection is made, the EI should contact the first clinician selected by the parents and determine if the clinician can serve the child. If the clinician is unavailable, the EI should contact the next clinician from the prioritized list. If the clinician can serve the child, the EI must submit to the clinician, a referral packet. The packet must contain:

1. The Referral for the M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview and STAT
2. A copy of the completed M-CHAT
4. The STAT clinician will contact the parents and complete the M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview by telephone. If the M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview confirms the failed M-CHAT, the clinician will schedule a STAT with the child as soon as possible. The STAT will be administered in the clinician's office.
5. When the STAT is completed, the clinician will forward to the EI and parents a copy of the completed M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview and a written report of findings detailing the results of the STAT screening.
 - If the STAT is passed, the EI will inform the parents of services other than ABA that are available.
 - If the STAT is failed, the child may be eligible to receive ABA through BabyNet. The EI will assist the parents in obtaining these services by following the procedures outlined in the BabyNet Manual.
6. If the child begins ABA through BabyNet, the EI must complete the third section of the Referral for M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview and STAT.

Miscellaneous

If a child is under the age of three (3), the parents must have the child's name placed on the PDD Wait List if it has not yet been done. No documentation is required for children under three (3); however, the EI should assist the parents with completing the **Request for PDD Waiver Slot Allocation (PDD Form 30)**. All questions must be answered and the form must be signed by the parent, the EI and the EI's Supervisor.

Once the application has been completed, the **Request for PDD Waiver Slot Allocation (PDD Form 30)** must be sent to the District I Waiver Coordinator at:

SCDDSN
Whitten Center
Attention: Vicki Coleman
P. O. Box 239
Clinton, SC 29325