

Developing an Effective Early Childhood Evaluation Process in Southington, CT

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Aspiring Leaders in Special Education
Capstone Project
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Agenda for Learning

- ❑ Why is Change Necessary?
- ❑ Current System of Evaluation
- ❑ Challenges with the Current System
- ❑ Action Plan for System Redesign
- ❑ Evaluation Team Considerations
- ❑ Resources

Why is Change Necessary?

Number of Preschool Evaluations

Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Total for Year	18	18	38	17	62

- **90%** of individuals involved on the current evaluation team report feeling overwhelmed
 - Citing evaluation process/meetings/paperwork as a primary stressor

Current System of Evaluation

- **Who:** Rotation of 4 teachers, 2 speech pathologists, 1 OT, 1 PT, 2 preschool facilitators
- **When:** Evaluations conducted on Friday mornings when available
- **Where:** Split amongst 2 schools
- **How:** Evaluations conducted over several sessions in most scenarios

Challenges with the Current System

- **Timelines**—45 days
- Allowing for **multiple sessions**
 - Developmentally appropriate practices
 - Scheduling challenges
 - PPTs
 - Naptime
 - Family availability
- **Consistency** across evaluators
 - Program determinations
 - Consistent practices and evaluations

Challenges to System Change

- **Fiscal challenges (development of team)**
- **Space/Location**
- **Shared visions for evaluations by all partners**

Action Plan for System Redesign

Task	Person(s) Responsible	Outcome	Timeline	Criteria for Success
Proposal to Special education supervisor/director	-Current preschool evaluation team	Discuss current challenges and strategize ways to improve system	August/September 2024	Supervisor/director allow for meeting and are open to discussing change
Development of committee	-Preschool coordinator -Special education supervisor	Develop core group of individuals who understand current system (Staff, B-3, etc.)	September 2024	Team of individuals is established with shared vision for evaluation team development
Focus Groups/Surveys	-Preschool coordinator -Evaluation committee	Collaborate with all partners (Staff, families, B-3)	October 2024	Ideas and needs are developed and paired down to focus project

Action Plan for System Redesign (cont.)

Task	Person(s) Responsible	Outcome	Timeline	Criteria for Success
Data Collection	-Preschool coordinator -Evaluation committee	Data is received and analyzed by committee to fully assess current system	October/ November 2024	At least 75% of surveys are completed and returned and reviewed
Proposal to Superintendent	-Special Education Supervisor -Preschool coordinator -Evaluation committee	Meeting held with superintendent to discuss survey results/data and present ideas/solutions	November/ December 2024	Superintendent is open to evaluation team development

Evaluation Team Considerations

- **Who is on the evaluation team?**
- **Funding**
- **Tools**
 - Which assessments/screenings will be used?
- **Timing**
 - When will evaluations take place?; How does the work change seasonally?
- **Location**
 - Where will evaluations take place?
- **Full Evaluation vs. Screening Determination**
- **Weekly Structure for team**

Resources

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

<https://www.ctoec.org/>

Connecticut Birth to Three Transition

<https://www.birth23.org/families/transition-2/>

**Connecticut State Department of Education: Early Childhood
Special Education**

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/special-education/early-childhood-special-education>

**Early Childhood Screening & Assessment in Connecticut
(Office of Early Childhood)**

https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/OEC_AssessmentDoc_FINAL.pdf

Thank you!

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