

What is ECAT?

The New Haven Public Schools' Early Childhood Assessment Team (ECAT) is a team of professionals who evaluate preschool-aged children to determine if they qualify for special education services.

ECAT is committed to locating and evaluating children from age three to age five in order to determine the need for special education services.

A child may qualify for special education services if he/she demonstrates significant delays in areas such as: speech, language, learning, basic school readiness skills cognition and others.



ALL CHILDREN CAN
LEARN, ACHIEVE AND RISE
TO A BRIGHT FUTURE



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ECAT

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If you have
any questions,
please call us at ECAT:
(475) 220-7950

We can help you in
English or Spanish

*If you child has a younger sibling
(under the age of 3) and you
have concerns for his/her
development, you may call:*

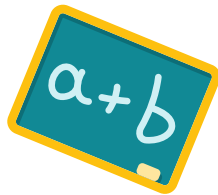
*Connecticut's Birth to Three System
1-800-505-7000*



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WELCOME TO ECAT

**Early Childhood
Assessment Team**



How did I get to ECAT?

ECAT engages the support of community agencies, physicians, day care centers, preschools, Head Start/Readiness in servicing, preschoolers. ECAT will work with Birth to Three agencies in assuring that children who continue to need special education services transition smoothly into the NHPS. ECAT receives information regarding concerns for children from many sources. These sources may be parents, pediatricians, day care providers, hospital personnel, preschool programs or a social service agency. If someone other than a parent wishes to initiate a referral they may only do so with the parent's consent. Children enrolled in a NHPS preschool program will be referred to ECAT after a referral to Special Education is completed by preschool staff that documents significant resistance or response to instruction.

What is a PPT meeting?

PPT is the abbreviation for the Planning and Placement Team. The first, also called the "Initial" PPT meeting is held at the ECAT office and is scheduled to discuss the development of your child. Parents and representatives of the school district participate in the PPT meeting. Representatives of the school district that attend a PPT meeting must include a special education teacher, a regular education teacher, an administrator, and one more of the following professionals: school social worker, speech pathologist, school psychologist. Parents are encouraged to invite those persons who provide family support.

What can I expect at a PPT meeting?

The team will discuss the development of your child by reviewing and/or updating the information gathered prior to the PPT. Based on the information available, the team will determine whether evaluations are needed or warranted. Once it is determined that evaluations are recommended, the team will discuss evaluations that are appropriate.

What types of evaluations will be given?

The evaluations at ECAT are designed to obtain information which will help to determine if your child qualifies for special education services. The evaluations that we use may include one or more of the following:

- Preschool Language Scale (PLS-4, PLS-5)
- Mullen Scales of Early Learning (MSEL)
- Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales (VBS)
- Social Work Assessment
- Goldman-Fristoe Test of Articulation
- Clinical Assessment of Articulation and Phonology
- Brigance Inventory of Basic Skills
- Differential Ability Scales, K-ABC, K-SEALS or others
- HEALTH Summary
- Gilliam Autism Rating Scales & others
- Bilingual evaluators are available



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When can I expect the results of the evaluations?

The NHPS have forty-five (45) school days in which to complete the process from referral to the final meeting where evaluation results are shared and recommendations are made. The process for a child that enters through the Birth to Three system should be completed before the child's third birthday, provided that ECAT has received the referral in a timely manner.

What happens at the next ppt meeting?

At this meeting, often referred to as the "Final" PPT meeting, results of the evaluations are shared with team members. Determination of eligibility for special education services and/or related service is based on evaluative results. You, as a member of the team, will provide input into the decisions and recommendations made at this meeting.

What happens if my child qualifies for special education?

An individual Education Program (IEP) formally identifies the child's needs. The ECAT staff and you will discuss and identify the services that will address the educational needs as defined by the IEP. The IEP will be reviewed annually; however, you have the right to request a program review if or when concerns arise.

What if my child does not qualify for special education?

When possible, ECAT will, outside the PPT process provide information so that you may contact resources in the community. ECAT is also able to provide you with contact information concerning NHPS Head Start/Readiness Preschool programs however does not enroll children in regular education programs. If your child is already involved in a Birth to Three program, your service coordinator will provide you with information relating to community programs as well.

