

# MULTIAGENCY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM ASSESSMENT (MMTA)

*... What is it, what does it do, and why would I choose it for my child?*

**WHAT-** the MMTA is a way of assessing children jointly by the schools and Regional Center.

**WHO-** It is made up of a team of professionals from both agencies and may include (depending on the child's needs):

From the schools:

- Special education developmental specialist or early childhood specialist
- Speech/Language therapist
- Educational Psychologist
- Occupational Therapist
- School Nurse

From the Regional Center

- Clinical Psychologist
- Medical Doctor
- Service Coordinator

**WHY-** There are many benefits for doing the assessment this way:

- The child only needs to be assessed once.
- Having many professionals together allows them to gain information from the viewpoint of their discipline and share with each other, providing a much more comprehensive approach than separate assessments.
- Different professionals may be able to engage and establish rapport with the child in a different way, providing a more complete picture of the child
- All assessors see everything together at the same time.
- Promotes better ability to plan services with the family in a coordinated way.

**HOW-** For children who are scheduled for assessment with both the Regional Center and the schools, the parents may be given the option of the MMTA when both agencies are available. Both agencies would work with the family to determine which assessors will be present, based on the needs of the child.

**WHERE-** The assessment would be conducted in the assessment center of the local school district. Most of these centers are like huge play rooms, and the children often enjoy playing with all the "cool toys."

**WHEN-** The appointment would be scheduled according to the needs of the child/family and professional availability, during the school day.

**THEN WHAT-** Both the schools and Regional Center will develop a separate written assessment report. The schools and Regional Center have different criteria for eligibility, so it is possible that a child would qualify for one agency and not the other.

If the child meets the schools' eligibility criteria for a **disability** and needs **special education services** an IEP will be developed. The IEP meeting will be held at the school within 50 days of the time you agreed to assessment. If possible, a Regional Center Service Coordinator will attend. The IEP will address the child's needs to access the **educational** environment.

If the child meets eligibility for Regional Center, an Individualized Program Plan (IPP) would be held within 60 days of determination of eligibility. The IPP will address the child's needs to function in the **home** and **community**.