

Understanding the service group called “Children with moderate support needs”

What is this guide intended to do?

All children need some level of support from their family to stay healthy, safe, and happy. Children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) may need assistance above and beyond what is typical for all children. This guide helps you understand what a service group is, how it is determined, and what to do if you disagree with your child’s service group. No matter what service group your child is assigned to, don’t forget that you will take the lead in deciding what services your child receives.

What is the Oregon Needs Assessment?

The Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA) helps us achieve our vision of a system of supports that is easy to use and responsive to the strengths, needs and direction of people with disabilities and their families.

The Oregon Needs Assessment is a tool used by the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) to get information about what kinds of challenges your child may have if they had no support. It is completed by a person called an Assessor, with help from you, your child, and other people you choose.

The information is used to help you, your child and those you choose to help you with planning, talk about what kinds of supports are best for your child. The Oregon Needs Assessment does not identify how your child will be supported, or what will help your child achieve their goals — that is done during the Individual Support Planning process. You, your child, and others you choose, will decide what supports will best meet your child’s needs and

help them reach their goals. Your child's Oregon Needs Assessment and resulting service group are just one part of the planning process.

Why are service groups important?

If your child receives developmental disabilities services as one of the supports in your child's life, their service group determines the most hours a care provider ("provider") may be paid to support your child each month. If your child needs agency residential services, their service group determines how much residential providers will be paid to care for them.

How was my child's service group determined?

Certain questions in the Oregon Needs Assessment are used to determine your child's service group. This guide will go on to explain exactly how this works.

How are service groups organized?

Service groups are first organized by a person's age, such as infant/toddler (birth to 3), young child (4 to 11), adolescent (12 to 17), and adult (18+). Within each age range, there are different service groups based on support needs.

What causes someone to be assigned to the Child: Moderate service group?

A child may be assigned this service group due to any of the following:

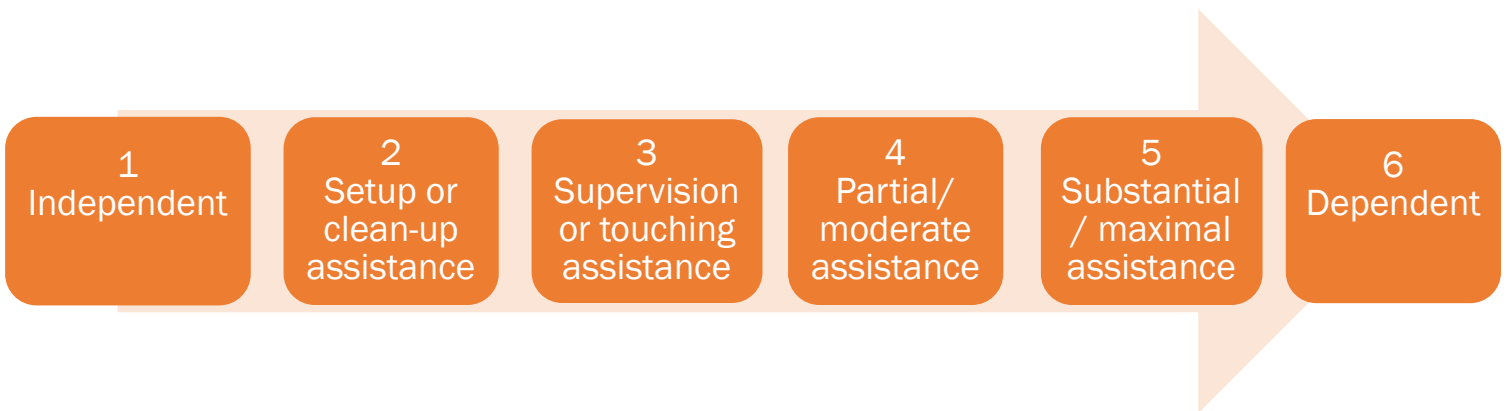
- moderate general support needs related to your child's disability
- medical or behavioral support needs that are managed with general support

Those in the Child: Moderate service group are all unique individuals. They are in the same service group because the type or level of assistance they need is similar.

What is the general support need criteria for Child: Moderate?

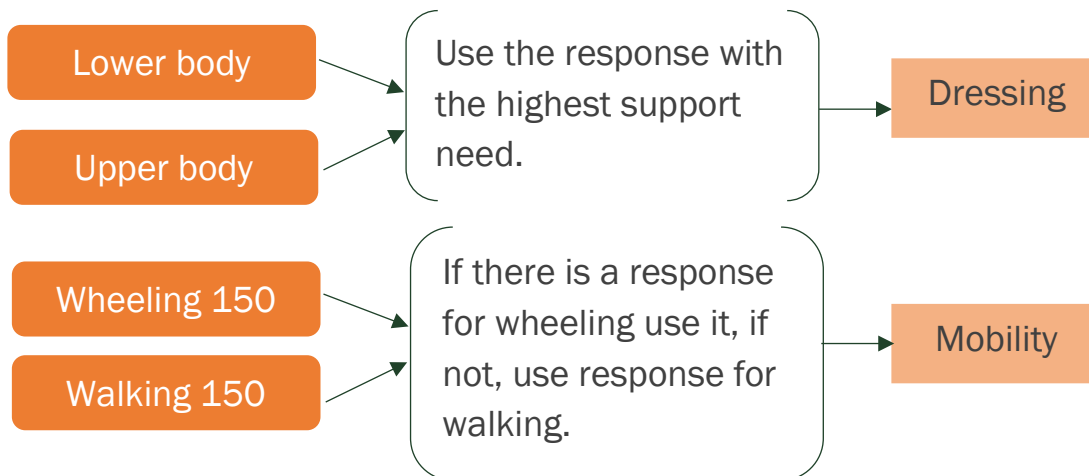
To measure general support need, the focus is on responses to Oregon Needs Assessment questions about activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living (ADLs/IADLs). The ONA asks about many different activities of daily living and how much support a person needs with these activities.

For each question, the responses are on a scale from 1 to 6. The scale for each question looks like:



Responses to certain questions in the ONA are used to create one overall score called the General Support Need (GSN) score.

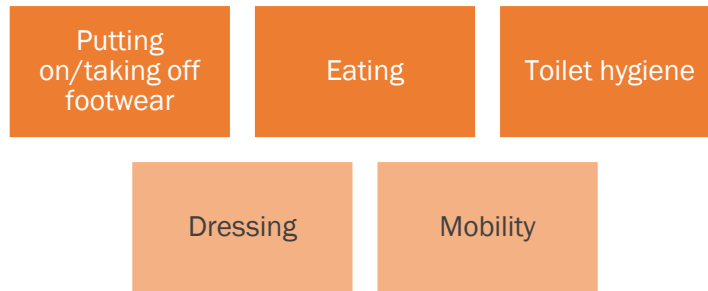
First, responses about dressing and mobility in the ONA are combined into two items:



Then, dressing and mobility are added to responses to other questions in the ONA. Depending on your age, the questions that are added in are different since children typically have different skills at different ages.

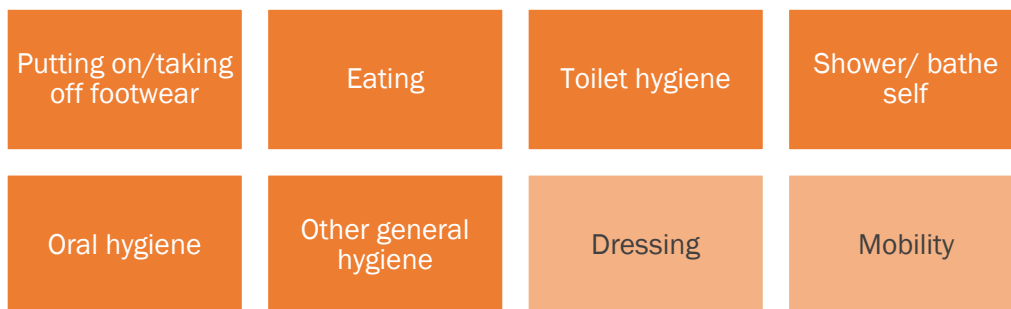
For children 4 years old

There are five questions that are added up for children that are 4 years old. They are:



For children 5 to 11 years of age

There are eight questions that are added up for children that are 5 to 11 years old. They are:



If you choose not to answer a question from the ONA or the question is not applicable, that response is scored as a 1. If an activity is not attempted due to a medical condition or safety concern, that response is scored as a 6.

Age Add-on Score

For children, an age add-on score is created because all young children are dependent on caregivers for most of their daily needs. For children age 4, nine other questions are added. These questions ask about showing/bathing self, oral hygiene, other hygiene, housework, making a light meal, laundry, using public transportation, money management, and light shopping. The

Oregon Needs Assessment does not require answers to these questions. For children age 4, these questions are automatically scored with a 6 for “dependent” so the age add-on score for 4-year-old children is 54.

For children ages 5 to 11, six other questions are added to create an age add-on score. These questions ask about housework, making a light meal, laundry, using public transportation, money management, and light shopping. For children in this age range, these questions are automatically scored with a 6 for “dependent” so the age add-on score for 5 to 11-year-old children is 36.

The total GSN score includes adding the responses to the first questions plus the age add-on score. Children with a GSN score between 54 and 73 are assigned to the Child: Moderate service group.

If you would like to see your child’s Oregon Needs Assessment to see how it was scored, you can get it from your child’s Services Coordinator.

If you disagree with your child’s assigned service group

You, and those in your child’s life, best understand what your child needs to achieve their goals. You have rights and options when you don’t agree with decisions made about the services and supports your child receives.

The links below describe steps you can take if you disagree. These pages define when your child is eligible for exceptions and how to file them, as well as the standard hearings and appeal rights and process.

Request a hearing: <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/idd/Pages/hearings.aspx>

Request an exception:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/idd/Pages/exceptions.aspx>

Resources

Where to learn more

More information about how the service group framework was developed and what steps are next online:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/compass/Pages/service-groups.aspx>