



**ORANGA
TAMARIKI**
Ministry for Children

GATEWAY ASSESSMENTS

Information for parents and guardians





Sometimes children have health, education and wellbeing needs that haven't been picked up.

A Gateway Assessment can help us to find out about any needs your child has and make sure they get the right help. That might mean anything from having a dental check or hearing test, to getting extra support in education.

In this brochure you'll find information about the Gateway Assessment process and two consent forms to read and sign, so we can make the best assessment of your child's health and education needs.

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HOW IT WORKS

The Gateway Assessment has three main steps.

Seeking your consent

We start by asking your permission to find out if your child has any health or education needs that we can help with, so that they can feel well and be at their best.

We're also interested in learning anything about your health that might be relevant to your child – like how the pregnancy went or any family health issues that may be important.

We'll keep you involved throughout the Gateway Assessment process and you can talk to us at any time.

Your consent is voluntary – but if you do not provide consent, the support and assistance available to you and your child as part of the Gateway Assessment process will not be available.

If you give your consent, the Privacy Act 1993 governs how you can have access to and request correction of your information.

Collecting health, education and wellbeing information

- An Oranga Tamariki social worker will make a referral to a Gateway Assessment coordinator, who's employed by the district health board.
- The coordinator will collect information that builds a picture of your child's health and treatment history. They'll do this by contacting your child's doctor, Plunket nurse, Well Child/Tamariki Ora nurse and/or health professionals who've looked after them in the past.
- The coordinator will also be provided with information from your child's Oranga Tamariki file by an Oranga Tamariki social worker.

- Once they've collected all the information, the coordinator will organise a health check with a Gateway health professional.
- At the same time, the Oranga Tamariki social worker will ask an education service to collect information about your child's learning.
- The education service may be your child's early childhood education provider or school, a Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTLB), or the Ministry of Education.
- The information will be recorded and shared with the Oranga Tamariki social worker and the Gateway health professional.

If an RTLB is completing the education profile, they'll meet with you and the Oranga Tamariki social worker to talk about your child's education needs in the short term. If there's anything extra that can be done to help your child at school, they'll work with your child's school to put that support in place.

The health assessment

The Gateway health professional will do this assessment. They'll look for any health needs your child might have and check things like hearing and eyesight. They'll also ask about your child's diet and how they're feeling generally.

It's good if you can be there to support your child and answer any questions the Gateway health professional might have. If your child is living away from home, their caregiver might be there as well.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The Gateway health professional will complete a Gateway Report after the assessment. They'll talk to other health and education services and the Oranga Tamariki social worker about what they've found and what might help to keep your child healthy and learning. The social worker will also discuss the report and recommendations with you and your child, and your child's caregiver if your child lives away from home.

If you agree, your child might be referred to services that will support their health, learning/education and general wellbeing. For example, they might need to take medicine, visit a dentist, see a speech-language or behaviour specialist, or get help with strategies to help them with education.



SEEKING YOUR CONSENT

There are two consent forms for you to read and sign.

1. Consent of parent/guardian(s)

Name of child:

I (your name)

am a legal guardian of this child.

I consent to a Gateway Assessment and Report for my child.

I understand that a Gateway Assessment is a detailed assessment of my child's health, education and wellbeing by a Gateway health professional.

Information from the assessment will go into a Gateway Report. This will identify any health, education or wellbeing needs my child has. It is likely to recommend ways to support my child to be healthy and achieve to the best of their ability.

I understand that my consent is voluntary – but if I do not provide consent, the support and assistance available to me and my child as part of the Gateway Assessment process will not be available.

I understand that the Privacy Act 1993 governs how I can have access to and request correction of my information.

Wellbeing

I understand that Oranga Tamariki will gather information about my child's wellbeing.

This information will be held by Oranga Tamariki and compiled in a report about my child.

This report may include an outline of the following:

- my child's needs and strengths
- why Oranga Tamariki is involved with my child
- what Oranga Tamariki is worried about
- my child's hopes, dreams and wishes
- cultural considerations.

The report will be shared with the Gateway health professional to help with the Gateway Assessment.

Education

I understand that my child's education service will gather information about my child's learning. This will be recorded in an education profile, and will include information from my child's current and/or previous school, early childhood education provider, Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour, and the Ministry of Education.

The education profile will be shared with the Gateway health professional and my child's Oranga Tamariki social worker, to help with the Gateway Assessment.

Health

I understand that a Gateway health professional will carry out a full health assessment of my child. This may involve:

- looking at their health history
- a general health examination, including hearing and eyesight tests
- assessing their behaviour, emotional and mental health status and needs.

I understand that other tests or referrals, such as a blood test and X-rays, might be suggested. The reasons for these will be discussed with me and my child (if they are old enough/able to understand) and I will give my verbal consent first.

Your Gateway health professional will write a Gateway Report about your child. This Gateway health professional is engaged by the relevant district health board.

Who else gets a copy of the Gateway Report recommendations?

The Gateway Report recommendations will include a list of your child's needs and what services are being recommended. The Gateway Report recommendations will not include all of the information included in the full Gateway Report.

I understand that the Gateway health professional will discuss the report's recommendations with:

- health and education service providers who might work with or support my child
- my child's Oranga Tamariki social worker.

I understand that the social worker will discuss the recommendations with me, my child (if appropriate), and my child's caregiver if my child is living away from home.

I consent to the Oranga Tamariki social worker and/ or the Gateway health professional giving a copy of the Gateway recommendations about my child to other health professionals, school/education professionals or the participants of a family group conference.

Who else gets a copy of the Gateway Report?

I consent to a copy of the Gateway Report being given to the Oranga Tamariki social worker to help them understand my child's health and education needs. I also consent to my child's family doctor (general practitioner) getting a copy.

I understand that the Family Court or the lawyer representing my child may also get a copy of the report to help them support the wellbeing and development of my child. I also understand that if I'm worried about this I can discuss it with the social worker.

Other information about you or your child

I understand that information collected about my child may be used by Oranga Tamariki, district health boards, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to improve the quality of the Gateway Assessment service, but my child and family will not be identified.

I also understand that the information may be shared with other agencies for statistical or research purposes only. If this happens, all identifying details will be removed.

Signature:

Date:

Thank you for agreeing to let us find out about your child's health, education and wellbeing so that we can help them to learn and be healthy and well.

2. Consent to collect and share family health information

Name of child:

I (your name)

am this child's birth mother/father.

I understand that:

- a Gateway Assessment is a full assessment of my child's health, education and wellbeing needs
- a Gateway Report will be prepared by a Gateway health professional and is likely to recommend ways to support my child to be healthy and achieve to the best of their ability
- my own health and wellbeing may have affected my child's development
- my health may indicate a family health issue that could affect my child now or in the future.

I consent to a Gateway health professional gathering information about my health to help with the assessment of and report for my child. This includes information from any agency that holds health information about me, including my doctor or other health provider, any district health board and the Ministry of Health.

I understand that my consent is voluntary – but if I do not provide consent, it may reduce the level of support and assistance available to me and my child as part of the Gateway Assessment process.

I understand that the Privacy Act 1993 governs how I can have access to and request correction of my information.

Who will get information about my health?

I understand that:

- information about my health may be included in the Gateway Report if it could affect, or has affected, the health or wellbeing of my child
- the Gateway Report will be given to my child's Oranga Tamariki social worker to help them understand and help with any health, education and wellbeing needs my child has
- any Gateway Report recommendations shared with a wider group of people (such as people involved in my child's education or at a family group conference) will not include my personal health history, unless I give my consent
- the Family Court and the lawyer representing my child may get some or all of the education profile and health report to help them support the wellbeing and development of my child. I can talk to the social worker about this if I have any worries.

Signature:

Date:

Thank you for agreeing to us collecting and sharing information about your health that might affect your child's health or wellbeing.