

CHILD FIND



Reaching Families of Children with Special Needs

What is Child Find?

Child Find is a process required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to identify, locate, and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities and may need early intervention or special education services. It is an ongoing process of public awareness activities and evaluations to ensure children with special needs can receive the help they need to succeed as early as possible.

How are children identified and located?

Anyone concerned about a child's speech, learning, behavior, or development can make a Child Find request. A multidisciplinary evaluation team will meet with the family within 14 days to decide if an evaluation is needed. If so, written permission from the child's parent is required before an evaluation is conducted.

What is a multi-disciplinary evaluation?

A multidisciplinary evaluation will involve a series of observations and tests with the child and interviews with caregivers conducted by two or more specialists such as a speech language pathologist, a school psychologist, or a special educator. A written summary of this evaluation will be provided to the family and a meeting will be held to determine if the child needs special services.

What should I bring to the meeting?

Although you do not need to bring anything with you when you come to the meeting that determines if a multidisciplinary evaluation is necessary, any records or information you have that can assist you in describing your concerns about your child would be helpful.

Who should I contact to make a request?

For children ages birth through two years, contact your local Health Department.

For children ages three to twenty-one years, contact your local school district.

Child Find Request

Multidisciplinary Evaluation team meets with the family

No testing needed

Multidisciplinary Evaluation



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