



Information for Families Regarding THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN Who May Need Special Education Services

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is special education for 3 & 4 year olds?

A: Special education is individualized services for young children who have been identified as having a disability and require specialized instruction to access their education (appropriate preschool activities). Special education is a service and not a place.

Q: Who provides special education?

A: Your local school district is required by state and federal law to provide special education services for any child aged 3 to 21 who qualifies.

Q: How do I know if my child needs services?

A: If you have concerns about your child's learning and development, you can contact your local school district's department of special services to request an evaluation.

Q: Who is eligible for special education services?

A: A child who is determined to have a disability or a delay in any developmental area(s) (e.g., thinking, social/behavioral/emotional, physical, language and communication) that impacts his/her educational performance and as a result requires specialized instruction to access and benefit from his/her education (appropriate preschool activities).

WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP?

- Contact **Connecticut 2-1-1 Child Development Infoline** at <https://cdi.211ct.org> or 1-800-505-7000 to make a referral to **Help Me Grow**, which is a FREE statewide program that serves children and their families starting at pregnancy. Help Me Grow connects children and their families to community services and resources.

- Contact **your local school district's department of special services** to request a developmental screening if you are unsure about your child's development.

- Request **an evaluation through your local school district** if you have concerns about your child's progress in any developmental area(s) (e.g., thinking, social/behavioral/emotional, physical, language and communication). Contact Connecticut 2-1-1 Child Development Infoline for assistance with a referral to your local school district at <https://cdi.211ct.org/program/early-childhood-special-education> or 1-800-505-7000.

- Visit the **Connecticut State Department of Education's Preschool Special Education** website at <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Special-Education/Early-Childhood-Special-Education>.

- Contact the **Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC)** at <http://www.cpacinc.org/about-us> or 1-800-445-2722 for information or support with the special education referral process.

