



Preschool Special Education Can Help Children Aged 3 To 5 Learn Better

CHARLES B. WANG COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
王嘉廉社區醫療中心

Preschool Special Education May Help Your Child

Every child learns skills like walking and talking at a different rate than other children. However, if your child learns more slowly than other children, talk to your doctor. Your doctor can check your child's development or refer your child for an evaluation. If eligible, your child may receive free preschool special education programs that help your child learn better.

Preschool special education provides:

- Special classes for both children with special needs and children without special needs
- Special classes just for children with special needs
- Special education teachers who provide extra help in the classroom
- Therapy, counseling, and parent education

These services are available at special education preschools, pre-kindergarten programs, health care providers' offices, child care centers, or your home.

Refer Your Child To Your School's CPSE

Each school district has a Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). It reviews children's needs and provides referrals to special education. To get special education for your child, you or your doctor, child's teacher, early intervention (EI) service coordinator, or social worker should refer your child to the CPSE for an evaluation. Once the CPSE receives the referral, the school will send a consent form that you must fill out to have your child evaluated. Doctors, teachers, social workers, and EI service coordinators can recommend an evaluation, but only parents or caregivers can give permission.

“At first, I was afraid that my son would be labeled as special needs, but now I'm so glad I decided to put him in special education. He gets plenty of help from his teachers, and he is doing much better in school. He also seems happier. It is far more important to see my son learn and be happy than worry about him being labeled.”



Work With The CPSE To Get Services For Your Child

1. Have Your Child Evaluated—Within 45 days after the CPSE receives your referral, the committee will review your child’s abilities to determine if your child needs special education services. This process will include:

- Physical and psychological examination
- Your child’s social and family background
- Visits with your child at home, school, or wherever your child receives care
- Other tests based on your child’s need

2. Find Out If Your Child is Eligible—After the evaluation, you and the CPSE will meet to discuss your child’s eligibility for services. The meeting will include:

- Anyone you wish to invite (caregiver, social worker, translator, friend)
- CPSE chairperson of the local school district
- The special education teacher or specialist who conducted the evaluation
- Your EI service coordinator if your child receives EI services

3. Develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP)—If your child is eligible for special education, you and the CPSE will develop an IEP. The IEP outlines the services your child needs to prepare for school. Services start within 30 school days after the IEP is developed. If services do not start on time, contact the CPSE, or ask your doctor or social worker for help.

4. Hold Annual Reviews—You, the CPSE, a teacher, a school psychologist, and a district representative will review the IEP at least once a year to see if the services help your child and to make any changes.



Be Your Child's Best Advocate

Getting special education services for your child is not always simple, but it is important to address your child's needs. Help your child learn and progress by being a supportive parent.

- Know your rights as a parent. Stay informed of when and how to ask for services.
- Stay involved in the process. Make sure all the steps are followed to get services for your child. Attend all the committee meetings, and work closely with the CPSE.
- Keep your child's school informed about your child's special needs.
- Talk to your child's teachers and other providers to track your child's progress.

What Happens If CPSE Decides That My Child Is Ineligible For Services?

You will receive a notice from CPSE telling you that your child is ineligible. The notice will also explain how the decision was made. Continue tracking your child's development, and talk to your doctor if you have other concerns. If you disagree with the CPSE's decision, request mediation and/or a hearing by filling out a form at your local school district.

What Happens When My Child Turns Five-Years-Old?

After preschool, your child can still receive special education services. At the age of 5, your child may be referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE). If eligible, your child may receive special education services at your elementary school or at another location.





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