

Appendix 3: Special Education Ages Three Through Five

In accordance with state law, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for making available educational services to preschool children with disabilities ages three to 21. Once it has been determined that the child has a suspected disability, the school district is responsible for completing an evaluation. Information collected through interview, observations, criterion-referenced/curriculum based and standardized assessments are reviewed and summarized to determine if the child is eligible for specially designed instruction and related services.

A team of individuals, including the child's parents, meet to review the results of the evaluation and develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the child. The IEP includes, but is not limited to, a statement of present levels of performance, goals, objectives, evaluation criteria for each objective, special education services for each goal and the least restrictive setting in which services will be delivered.

In accordance with the IEP, service delivery options may include itinerant services and/or a special education center-based program. Itinerant services may be delivered in the home or to a child attending a public preschool, kindergarten, community-based preschool or child-care program.

A center-based special education program, located in an integrated setting or a separate facility, may be part-time or full-time. Each preschool education program provides an appropriate curriculum, which includes parent involvement and addresses developmental domains: adaptive, aesthetic, cognitive, communication, sensorimotor and social-emotional. With parent permission, a child is provided the services outlined on the IEP.

Children ages birth through five with characteristics associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may be found eligible for services without a formal diagnosis of ASD. Whether or not a child has been diagnosed with ASD, an IFSP or IEP will be developed that addresses the child's and family's needs.

For a more detailed look at Education and Autism in Washington State refer to the publication *The Education Aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 2008 available at www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/pubdocs/Autism%20Manual.pdf.

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