



Child Find Referral Process

Referral Process for Children Ages 3 Years To Age 5/prekindergarten

Where do referrals come from?

Parent, child care providers, physicians, public health nurses, county social services workers, early childhood family education programs, hospitals, NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) Follow-up, Early Health Start Programs and other private and public health and human service agencies.

How are referrals made?

Call your Elementary School Principal.

Or you can call Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative to make a referral to Child Find. NLSEC has a designated Child Find Coordinator. Call 218-879-1283.

What happens when a referral of a child who is between the ages of three and five because there is a concern about his/her growth and development?

A member of the local school district takes the referral information and sends it to the district Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) team. A member of the ECSE team will contact the parent to obtain more information about the referral reason and to arrange a screening appointment with the family. The appointment is often at the child's local elementary school building or a site that is agreeable to the family. An initial screening for a child between the age of 3 and 5 is conducted. The screening might include the following activities:

- an explanation of Minnesota's special education process;
- an interview with the family using a child's health and developmental questionnaire;
- a discussion about the family's needs and concerns related to their child;
- a developmental screening using a standardized instrument, of the child's thinking, speaking, social and motor skills and a summary of the screening results;
- a systematic observation of the child's in his/her environment;
- obtain Consent For Release on Information for obtaining information from providers who are actively involved with the child;
- a screening of the child's vision and hearing skills;
- with the parent and before ending the screening appointment, there is a discussion about the need for further evaluation by the district's early childhood special education team. If there is a need for a special education evaluation because of a suspected disability, then the team reviews special education evaluation process.

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