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What is Child Find?

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth from birth to 22 years of age who are suspected of having or have a diagnosed disability or developmental delay, in order to provide appropriate special education services under the law.

When should a child be referred for services?

A child should be referred when:

- A health or medical disorder interferes with the child's development and/or learning
- A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing
- A child appears to have social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn or interact with others
- A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually impair or impede the child's ability to learn or interact with others
- A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like others that are his/her age
- A child's speech is not understood by family or friends
- A child has difficulty with reading, writing, math, or other school subjects

What is Special Education?

Special Education is instruction designed to meet the unique learning strengths and needs of the individual student with disabilities from birth to age 22, and is defined as:

- Specially designed instruction
- At no cost to the parents
- To meet with the unique needs of the child with a disability

Special Education services may be provided in a variety of educational settings, but are required by IDEA (federal guidelines) to be delivered in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

Who is eligible for services?

Disability categories have specific descriptions and eligibility criteria. The categories are:

- Autism
- Hearing impairment, including deafness
- Deaf-blindness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Language Speech Disorder
- Mental Retardation
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

How can a child be referred?

A referral may be made by a parent or by any person concerned about a child. Parent involvement and agreement is obtained prior to any further action. Information is confidential and the privacy of children and parents is protected.

You may contact your local school or your district of residence for the Special Education Department. Below is a list of the districts and phone numbers in the North Santa Cruz Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA).

Bonny Doon Union Elem-----427-2300
Delta Charter-----477-5212
Happy Valley Elementary-----429-1456
Live Oak School District-----475-6333
Mountain Elementary-----475-6812
Pacific Collegiate Charter-----479-7785
Pacific Elementary-----425-7002
San Lorenzo Valley Unified----336-9678
Santa Cruz City School Dist----429-3410
Scotts Valley Unified-----438-1820
Soquel Union Elem-----464-5631

Cabrillo College-----479-6527