

## What kinds of services may my child receive?

Preschool students may receive a variety of services including someone coming to your home, a half-day preschool program, a full-day preschool program, or a program where your child lives at a special school. First, the cpse must consider providing services in a setting where children without disabilities are typically found.

For some students, non-educational services are also needed to help them to benefit from special education. Non-educational services are often provided to students in the regular classroom, allowing them to stay in the regular classroom environment. Such services may include:

- Speech/language and audiology (hearing) services
- Psychological services
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Recreation and therapeutic recreation
- Social work services
- Counseling services
- Orientation and mobility services
- Nursing care
- Medical services for diagnostic and evaluation purposes
- Sign language or oral interpreter
- Psychotherapy
- One-to-one instructional aide
- Transportation
- Art therapy
- Technological devices, such as FM/AM systems or special computers

## Individualized Education Program (IEP)

The next step in the process for providing your child with services is writing the Individual Education Program (IEP). For information on this and other rights, see KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: SPECIAL EDUCATION: ACCESS AND ELIGIBILITY.

See also [KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: SPECIAL EDUCATION: ACCESS AND ELIGIBILITY](#) and [REQUESTING AN IMPARTIAL HEARING](#).

## Helpful Numbers and Websites

- [www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/home](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/home) (Special Education; Help for Parents)
- Legal Services for Children .....(212) 683-7999
- Legal Services for New York .....(212) 431-7200
- The Legal Aid Society .....(212) 577-3300
- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest .....(212) 244-4664
- Advocates for Children.....(212) 947-9779
- New York City Department of Education .....311
- The Children's Aid Society .....(212) 358-8930

For in-depth information, contact The Children's Aid Society at (212) 358-8930 to get a complete set of [KNOW YOUR RIGHTS](#) brochures and other legal advocacy publications in both English and Spanish. You may also log onto [www.childrensaidsociety.org](http://www.childrensaidsociety.org).



For over 150 years, The Children's Aid Society has been assisting New York City's children and their families without regard to race, religion, nationality or socio-economic status. Children's Aid helps children in every aspect of their lives from infancy through adolescence, providing guidance and resources to ensure a child's current well-being and future potential. With over 100 programs and 40 locations in New York that touch the lives of more than 150,000 children every year, Children's Aid is one of the country's largest and most innovative child and family social service agencies.

# special education: early intervention



The Department of Education (DOE) has a legal duty to evaluate students who may be in need of special education and provide appropriate services to all eligible students, regardless of immigration, housing or language status. This flyer, with material taken from Special Education in New York State Parents Guide describes some of the rights and responsibilities of parents and the DOE to ensure that this happens.

## Eligibility for Services

Under federal law, students between the ages of 3 and 22 who have one or more of the following conditions are eligible for special education. To qualify for special services, the disability must interfere with the student's ability to learn in the regular school setting.

- Mental retardation
- Hearing impairment (including deafness)
- Speech or language impairment
- Visual impairment (including blindness)
- Serious emotional disturbance
- Orthopedic impairment
- Autism
- Traumatic brain injury
- Specific learning disability
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Other health impairments

## Early Intervention (3 to 5 Years Old)

If you have a preschool child and you have noticed that your child is not developing skills such as walking, talking or playing like other young children, you may want to talk to your child's doctor. The doctor may be able to reassure you that children develop at different rates and your child is within the normal developmental scales. If, however, the doctor is concerned, or you are still not comfortable with your child's progress, you may make a referral to your school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). (Contact numbers are included on reverse.)

## What is the Committee on Preschool Special Education?

Every school district has a CPSE that decides a child's special education needs and services. The CPSE is responsible for children with disabilities ages 3-5. When you ask for services for your child, you become a member of the Committee that will recommend special education for your child.

You know your child better than anyone else and you have valuable knowledge to bring to Committee discussions. Other members of the Committee are people who have a broad range of experiences planning for and/or working with students with disabilities. Together you will work to make sure that special education programs and services are provided to meet your child's needs.

## What is an individual evaluation?

After your child is referred for an evaluation for special education, you will be asked to give your written consent to have your son or daughter evaluated to see if special education services or programs are needed. An evaluation includes various tests that are used to see what your child's learning difficulties may be and how those difficulties affect his or her learning in the regular classroom. *This evaluation is free.* Be sure to tell the Committee about your child's skills, abilities and needs, including any test results or doctor's records you may have already obtained. The Committee must consider information from parents when making decisions.

## What is your role in the evaluation process?

You will be asked to pick an approved evaluator from a list of evaluation sites. Before an evaluation is conducted, you will be asked for your suggestions about evaluating your child and be given information about the kinds of tests that will be used. If you have questions about the purpose or type of evaluation proposed, you should discuss them with the chairperson of the Committee.

## What is included in an individual evaluation?

The evaluation must cover all areas related to your child's ability to learn and unique abilities and needs. It should include information from you and a group of evaluators, including at least one special education teacher or other person with knowledge of your child's possible disability. The evaluation will tell what your child needs in order to learn in the classroom.

*Tests and assessments, given as part of an evaluation, must be given in your child's language by people who are trained, knowledgeable and certified to give the tests. The tests must be fair and not discriminate racially or culturally.* An initial evaluation to determine your child's needs must include:

- A physical examination
- A psychological evaluation (mandatory for preschool children)
- A social history
- Observation of your child in his or her current education setting
- Other tests or assessments that are appropriate for your child (such as a speech and language assessment or a functional behavioral assessment)

You must be given the result of the evaluation. This may be done at a meeting with the Committee where the technical language and scoring of the tests are explained to you. You must also be given a copy of the evaluation report.

You may bring in your own test results that the Committee must consider. If you believe that an evaluation conducted by the Committee is not appropriate or if you disagree with the results, you can obtain, and request that the school district pay for, an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE).

## What happens after the evaluation?

You will be invited to a meeting, as a member of the Committee, to talk about the results. You should attend this meeting because you have important information to share about your child. If you cannot attend, you have the right to ask the district to change the time or place of the meeting. At the meeting, the Committee will review the evaluation results. Based on that information, and information that you provide, the Committee decides if your child is eligible to receive special education services.

To be eligible, a child must have a disability that affects his or her ability to learn. In New York State, a child ages 3-5, may be identified as a "preschool student with a disability" if the CPSE finds that the child has a disability due to mental, physical or emotional reasons. Some preschool children may be identified as having autism, deafness, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, traumatic brain injury or visual impairment. Preschool students must have one of these disabilities to be eligible for special education.