



CHILD FIND SERVICES

The primary objective of Child Find Services is to identify children, ages 2 ½ to 5, who are experiencing delays in development which would impair future learning. Two programs within the Child Find Services area have been established as the responsibility of the Four Rivers Special Education District. These two programs are the Developmental Screening Program and the Diagnostic Clinic.

The Developmental Screening Program conducts a variety of screening activities annually by working collaboratively with member districts' pre-k programs, community day care centers, private nursery school settings, Early Intervention programs and Head Start programs. In addition, parents are encouraged to make individual appointments for their children if they have not been screened in a group setting. Announcements for registration are made in the local papers and other news media several weeks in advance of the actual screening. A standardized screening instrument is used with skill items designed to determine possible weaknesses in three major areas of development: motor skills, speech and language, and knowledge of basic concepts. When children experience significant difficulty in any of these areas, a domain meeting will be held to determine if further evaluations need to be conducted.

The Early Childhood Clinic team provides diagnostic services for preschool children who are suspected of having significant developmental delays similar to deficits typically associated with an identified disability. Referrals for diagnostic services may come from early childhood screening, parents, social agencies, community organizations, medical professionals, school district personnel, and other individuals with concerns regarding a specific child's development. A domain meeting will determine, on an individual basis, what evaluations will be completed. The professionals work with the child and talk with the parent(s) to determine possible eligibility for special education services. Final determination of eligibility for special education services is made at a multidisciplinary conference in which evaluation results are shared with parent(s), local school district staff and other appropriate individuals who may potentially be involved with the child's educational services.