



Early Childhood

Child Find Screening & Evaluation

What is Child Find?

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities designed to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who may be in need of early intervention programs or special education as early as possible. Child Find activities may include screening. Screening children provide parents and professionals with information on whether a child's development is similar to children of the same age. In Wisconsin, children from birth to 3 years of age may qualify for early intervention programs, which are operated by local Birth to 3 Programs. Children ages 3 to 21 may qualify for special education provided by local school districts.

Why is Child Find necessary?

The purpose of Child Find for children birth to age 21 is to ensure that all children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education, including special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

Who is covered by Child Find?

Wisconsin Child Find applies to all children who reside within the state. This includes infants; toddlers; preschoolers; children in private, public, or tribal schools; highly mobile, homeless, or migrant children; homeschooled children; and wards of the state.

What do I do if I suspect a child has a disability?

For a child from birth to age 3, contact the local Birth to 3 Program.

For a child age 3 to 21, contact the local school district.

Questions?

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3 Year Milestones

Children are learning to do more things for themselves, helping them feel independent. They love to explore words, language and enjoy making up stories. Three-year-olds very actively explore the world and are eager to please their parents. It's an ideal time to establish lifelong habits.

4 Year Milestones

During this year your child will improve skills and develop new ones. Providing plenty of time for physical activity, especially outdoors, is a good way to prevent children from getting bored and acting out. Let children dress up and pretend to be a firefighter, a teacher, etc. It's play that children learn the best.

5 Year Milestones

The world of a five-year-old is cheerful, energetic, and enthusiastic. Children enjoy planning and spend a great deal of time discussing who will do what. They enjoy dramatic play and are able to share toys and materials with other children. Five-year-olds are more sensitive to the needs and feelings of others around them.