

Eligibility Process



Help Me Grow Services

In Ohio, Help Me Grow Services provide support from children from Birth to Three that is established in accordance with state and federal law. Agencies throughout the state provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers who have been identified as having a disability or a significant developmental delay. As a child receiving Birth to Three services nears his or her third birthday, school districts are notified, and a Transition Meeting is scheduled. Information is shared between the Help Me Grow team and the district, and the process of determining eligibility for school based services begins. Close collaboration between both teams is an essential component of the transition process.



PreSchool Referrals-Child Find

The Child Find process identifies children ages three to five who may require special education services through the public schools. Our school system distributes information about the preschool referral process to local pediatricians, community preschools and child care centers, and other town organizations. Parents may refer their child for a screening at any time by calling 419-666-4267. Parents must complete the necessary registration paperwork. Any current evaluations, outside therapy, medical diagnosis, or detailed concerns should also be provided at the time of registration. Within 30 days of the referral, the district will determine if a preschool evaluation is warranted.



PreSchool Referrals-Teacher

The preschool teachers screen every student during the first week prior to the start of preschool using a developmental screening tool. If a student falls in the at-risk range or high-risk range, the teacher meets with the intervention team to determine the best intervention route. Depending on the severity of the students weaknesses, the team may provide intervention and monitor the students' progress or a formal referral will be made to complete a full evaluation for students' with a suspected disability. The team communicates their concerns with the parents along with the parental rights throughout the evaluation.

Teachers continuously monitor student development through the intervention team, which looks at student growth and progress throughout the school year. If at any point during the school year

a student develops developmental weaknesses, referrals are made to either the intervention team or school psychologist depending on the severity of the weaknesses.



Evaluation

The Evaluations consist of both a home visit and a classroom visit. Evaluations are completed by facilitators using a play-based model. Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapists as well as Psychologist are available to assess the child in the five developmental areas:

1. Cognition
2. Language development
3. Social- Emotional
4. Adaptive (self-help)
5. Gross and Fine motor

Evaluation Team Report meetings take place within 60 days from consent and may include standardized testing, classroom observation and play-based assessment.



Eligibility for Services

If a child demonstrates significant delays in one or more areas of development or has a diagnosed medical condition that puts him or her at high risk for developmental delays, the Evaluation Team may determine that the child is eligible for special education services. Within 30 days of determining eligibility, the team will meet to develop an Individual Education Plan.