



Autism In Orange County: Autism Resource Kit
Autism Services through the Ages
www.orangecountynyddconnection.com

Preschool Three Years Old – Five Years Old

A child does not need a medical diagnosis to receive preschool services through the local school system. Please see information on medical diagnosis in this resource kit as well as, The Services Guide section labeled **“Resources for Medical Assessments & Treatment”**

An additional list of doctors and information is available at
www.orangecountynyddconnection.com/forum

What are the steps in the Preschool Special Education Process?

Step 1: Initial Referral for Preschool Special Education Services

Students suspected of having a disability or delays are referred to a multidisciplinary team called the Committee on Preschool Special Education. This referral can be made directly from the parent or suggested through the child’s Early Intervention Service team. **To make a referral please call the local school system, in which the family resides.** Please see insert for local school system contact information.

Step 2: Individual Evaluation Process

The Committee arranges for an evaluation of the student’s abilities and needs. This can include evaluations for the following, Occupational therapy, Speech therapy, physical therapy, Special Education, Social history and other services that the child might need to during their preschool educational setting.

Step 3: Determining Eligibility for Preschool Special Education Services

If the child has a disability that may be affecting his or her learning, the CPSE will find the child to be an eligible "preschool student with a disability." This is determined based on the results of all evaluation materials. The CPSE will also recommend the program or services to meet the child’s individual needs and where the services will be provided



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Step 4: Individualized Education Program (IEP)

If the child is eligible to receive special education services, the Committee develops and implements an appropriate IEP, based on evaluation results, to meet the needs of the student. Based on the IEP, the Committee must determine the student's placement, ensuring that services are provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

Placement must be as close as possible to the student's home, and unless the student's IEP requires some other arrangement, the student must be educated in the school he or she would have attended if not disabled. The parent or guardian play the largest role in developing the child's IEP.

What programs might my child receive based on the evaluation results?

If approved by the school district, arrangements will be made for the eligible child to receive one or more of the following special education programs and/or services recommended by the CPSE including, but not limited to

Related Services- Speech Therapy (ST), Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Assistive technology, Parent education, Counseling.

Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) - a special education teacher works with a child in a setting

Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SC/IS) - a class with preschool students with and without disabilities recommended by the CPSE.

Special Class (SC) - a class with only children with disabilities.

Step 5: Annual Review/Reevaluation

The IEP is reviewed and, if needed, modified or revised by the Committee at least once a year (annual review). The student has a reevaluation at least once every three years, to review the student's need for special education programs and services and to revise the IEP, as appropriate. A reevaluation may also occur when conditions warrant or when requested by a parent or teacher.



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The process occurs sequentially with each step building on the previous one. In this way, comprehensive information about the student is obtained and considered. Timelines are in place so that delays are avoided. Parents are an integral part of this process, and your involvement is encouraged.

Educational Advocacy is available anytime during this process. For additional information please refer to specialized services within The Services Guide for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and online at www.orangecountynyddconnection.com