

# Child Find for Children Birth to Age 5

## About Child Find

Child Find is part of Colorado's system for identifying children suspected of having a delay in development. If a young child is not meeting typical developmental milestones, or someone is concerned about the child's growth or learning, the Child Find Team will evaluate how the child plays, learns, speaks, behaves and moves. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine if there is a significant delay or if there is a need for early intervention or special education services. This process usually begins with a developmental screening then moves on to a full evaluation if there are ongoing concerns. Screenings and evaluations conducted by the Child Find Team are at no cost to parents.

## Referrals

Children who are not yet in Kindergarten may be referred at any time when a family member, doctor or child care provider has a concern about their development. Parent permission is required for any screening or evaluation.

- For children from birth to three years of age, Child Find Teams partner with local Early Intervention Colorado programs who provide service coordination and eligibility determination.
- Children three to five years old are evaluated as a part of the preschool special education process.

## Developing a Plan

Once the Child Find Team, which includes the parents, has gathered enough information to determine if the child meets eligibility criteria for early intervention or preschool special education services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed and services begin shortly.

## **Providers**

Children under age three eligible for early intervention services receive services at home or in community settings as outlined in their IFSP. Preschool special education services for children three to five years of age are provided by Platte Canyon School District at Deer Creek Preschool. Early intervention services and preschool special education services are at no cost to the parent.

## **Who do I contact?**

- For children under 3 years of age you may either contact the Child Find Coordinator at 303-679-7594 or the Early Intervention Coordinator at 303-816-0011.
- For preschool aged children 3 through 5 years, please contact the Child Find Coordinator at 303-679-7594.
- For school age children, please call your child's principal.