Child Find

Submitted by Ladine Marquardt, Director of Student Services
Oregon Trail School District #46

Early intervention and early childhood special education are specialized services offered throughout the state of Oregon to eligible children with special needs ages’ birth to kindergarten. These programs are run through Clackamas ESD for our area. All referrals for screening and evaluation pass through this agency.

A child can be referred for these services by their family, day care program, preschool, friends, or physicians by contacting Clackamas Education Service District. An infant, toddler or preschooler should be referred if he/she has or is suspected of having problems related to developmental delays, vision, hearing, speech and language, motor, socialization, behavior or learning.

Once a family has been referred for services the child may receive a developmental screening and/or be recommended for a developmental evaluation. Trained specialists complete observations, conduct diagnostic evaluation, and gather information from parents. All initial evaluations are made with the knowledge and signed consent of the child’s parent. Parent concerns are considered in the evaluation process and in making a decision regarding eligibility. Once eligibility is established an individualized family service plan is developed. The plan outlines the types of service needed and how they will be delivered. Many times these services are delivered through home visits or in preschool settings.

When a child is found eligible for services through early intervention or early childhood special education their progress is monitored and at least once a year staff and family get together to write a new plan. When the child is ready to transition to school age services the early childhood special education staff with parental permission meets with school district personnel to plan the transition and determine eligibility. School age eligibility is determined by a team, which includes the child’s parents, at the child’s school after an evaluation is completed.

Children and youth may qualify for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (504). A child school age through 21 can be referred for an evaluation at any time if they are suspected of having a disability regardless of where they are receiving schooling. Private school and home-schooled youngsters may also access services. Contact the principal or special educator at the school nearest you for details. If the student is found eligible for school age services an Individual Education Plan or Section 504 plan will be developed. School staff will work closely with parents in the process. Information regarding special education services for all ages 0-21 can also be obtained from the Director of Student Services, Ladine Marquardt, 503-668-4949.