

FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS CHILD FIND

What is Child Find?

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth who are suspected of or have a diagnosed disability or developmental delay in order to provide free and appropriate Special Education services. Forsyth County Schools serve children from three through twenty-one years of age.

How can children be referred?

A referral may be made by anyone who has a concern about a child's development. All referrals are considered confidential. The parent retains the right to refuse services. Children may be referred by any of the following:

- Parents / legal guardians / foster parents
- Other family members
- Physicians / health care providers
- Preschool programs
- School system personnel
- Community agencies
- Private school personnel
- Others who are concerned about a child's development

When should a child be referred to Child Find?

A child should be referred when:

- A health or medical disorder interferes with development or learning.
- A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing.
- A child appears to have social, emotional or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn.
- A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually impair or impede the child's ability to learn.
- A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like others that are his/her age.
- A child's speech is not understandable to family or friends.
- A child has difficulty with reading, math, or other school subjects.

What is Special Education and who is eligible for services?

Special Education is instruction designed to meet the unique learning strengths and needs of individual students with disabilities from age three through twenty-one. A child must be evaluated and identified as having a disability to be eligible for Special Education and/or related services. Disability categories are: speech/language impairment, significant developmental delay, specific learning disability, traumatic brain injury, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, visual impairment, hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, autism spectrum disorders and other health impairments.

Where can I find out more about Child Find?

Call Forsyth County Schools at 770-887-2461 ext. 310100 for additional information or a referral packet.