

Frequently Asked Questions FDLRS/Child Find

Is my child eligible to participate in a pre-k screening?

Child Find screens children that are ages 3 years to age 5, but must NOT be enrolled in public school.

What counties to you provide screenings to children?

Our Child Find office provides screenings for Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Walton, and Washington Counties.

Do I need a doctor's referral for a screening?

No referral is necessary.

How can I schedule an appointment for my child?

The parent or guardian should contact the Child Find staff:

Dr. Jennifer Adams

Office Location: Bay District Schools Special Services Center, 1515 June Av., Panama City, FL 32405

Phone: 850.767.5300

Email: adamsj@paec.org

OR

Beth Johnson

Office Location: Panhandle Area Educational Consortium, 753 West Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

Phone: 850.638.6131 ext. 2310

Email: beth_johnson@paec.org

How much does a screening cost?

Screenings are FREE to your child/family. The screenings are co-sponsored by FDLRS/PAEC and the local school district.

When are screenings scheduled?

[Please check our screening flyers for your county's schedule.](#)

What areas of development to you screen?

The screening includes the developmental domains of: cognitive (learning), speech and communication, fine motor, gross motor, self-help, and social/behavior.

Who will screen my child?

Our staffs are specially trained in early childhood education and special education and are certified Florida teachers. They also have years of teaching experience with young children.

Our speech language pathologists are licensed and certified within Florida. They also have many years of experience working in private practice and/or public school.

When do I find out the results of the screening?

As soon as the screening is completed, a Child Find staff person will review the results and recommendations with you.

What happens after the screening? What is the next step?

If a child passes the screening tests, then the family may elect to find a preschool of their choice or keep the child at home with them. The Child Find process ends at this point. [Check our resource links for child care, VPK, Head Start, school readiness programs.](#)

If a child fails the screening tests, then Child Find will recommend one of the following to the family:

- Rescreen in a few months, or
- Refer to the school district for further evaluation and/or review of private medical/therapy reports. This program is voluntary and the family may choose for the child to refer or not. [Please review the pre-k evaluation process timeline.](#)

Who is my contact once my child is referred for further evaluation?

The Child Find screening process ends at the point of referral to the school district. Each school district has a contact person for their district, see [pre-k evaluation process timeline.](#)