

Qualifying for Special Education

00:00:08.530 --> 00:00:10.530

Welcome to our
Parent Information video.

00:00:11.150 --> 00:00:12.570

My name is Moira.

00:00:12.570 --> 00:00:13.780

And I'm Joe.

00:00:13.780 --> 00:00:15.860

This video was offered to you
by the East County SELPA

00:00:15.860 --> 00:00:17.180

in collaboration

00:00:17.180 --> 00:00:19.580

with the Exceptional Family
Resource Center. For parents,

00:00:19.580 --> 00:00:20.860

by parents.

00:00:20.860 --> 00:00:24.250

And here are seven fast facts
to know about how your child

00:00:24.250 --> 00:00:27.500

becomes eligible to receive
special education services.

00:00:28.380 --> 00:00:29.640

Number one,

00:00:29.640 --> 00:00:33.050

the only way to receive
special education services

00:00:33.050 --> 00:00:35.450

is for your child
to be evaluated by the school.

00:00:36.230 --> 00:00:38.790

Whether your child already
has a diagnosis from a doctor

00:00:38.790 --> 00:00:41.260

or not,
the school is legally required

00:00:41.260 --> 00:00:44.410

to conduct its own
educational assessment.

00:00:44.410 --> 00:00:47.230

The school will want to know
about and consider

00:00:47.230 --> 00:00:49.240

any prior assessments
of the child.

00:00:50.250 --> 00:00:52.450

Number two, there are
three ways

00:00:52.450 --> 00:00:55.130

that your child can be referred
for assessment.

00:00:55.130 --> 00:00:56.560

If your child
received California

00:00:56.560 --> 00:00:57.910

early starting services,

00:00:57.910 --> 00:01:00.690

then your child must be assessed
by their local school district

00:01:00.690 --> 00:01:02.880

no later than
their third birthday.

00:01:03.510 --> 00:01:06.380
Schools are also required
to identify and assess children

00:01:06.380 --> 00:01:10.090
who have a suspected disability.
This is called Child Find.

00:01:10.090 --> 00:01:11.860
Once a child enrolls
in public schools

00:01:11.860 --> 00:01:13.960
a teacher or other staff member

00:01:13.960 --> 00:01:15.970
may refer a child
for an evaluation.

00:01:16.490 --> 00:01:19.350
Parents can also request
special education assessments

00:01:19.350 --> 00:01:21.530
directly from
their local public school.

00:01:22.520 --> 00:01:25.230
Number three. Here's how
to know your child receives

00:01:25.230 --> 00:01:27.160
an appropriate assessment.

00:01:27.160 --> 00:01:29.630
You gave consent
for the assessment plan.

00:01:29.630 --> 00:01:32.280
All testing is valid
and nondiscriminatory.

00:01:32.920 --> 00:01:35.730
Your child is assessed

using their dominant language

00:01:35.730 --> 00:01:37.810
or mode of communication.

00:01:37.810 --> 00:01:39.709
Assessors are
appropriately qualified.

00:01:40.590 --> 00:01:43.440
All areas of suspected
disability are included.

00:01:44.320 --> 00:01:46.700
A variety of assessments
are utilized

00:01:46.700 --> 00:01:49.790
that may include assessors
observations of your child,

00:01:50.350 --> 00:01:53.190
interviews with you
and teachers,

00:01:53.190 --> 00:01:55.050
standardized
and informal testing,

00:01:55.640 --> 00:01:57.820
and a review
of any available records.

00:01:58.860 --> 00:02:01.360
Number four. Your child's
first IEP meeting

00:02:01.360 --> 00:02:04.230
will be held to review
the assessment reports.

00:02:04.230 --> 00:02:06.800
You can ask to receive
a draft copy of the report

00:02:06.800 --> 00:02:08.570
ahead of your child's meeting.

00:02:08.570 --> 00:02:11.260
Moir and I find
that it helps families

00:02:11.260 --> 00:02:13.620
to meaningfully participate
in the meeting.

00:02:13.620 --> 00:02:16.640
At the meeting you should feel
comfortable asking questions

00:02:17.150 --> 00:02:20.290
so that you can understand
the evaluation report

00:02:20.290 --> 00:02:22.339
and better understand
your child's needs.

00:02:22.920 --> 00:02:25.380
Number five. Determining
eligibility

00:02:25.380 --> 00:02:27.550
is a team effort.
For a child

00:02:27.550 --> 00:02:29.970
to be found eligible
for special education services

00:02:29.970 --> 00:02:32.830
and supports, the IEP team,
which includes you

00:02:32.830 --> 00:02:36.750
the parent, must answer yes to
each of the following questions.

00:02:37.290 --> 00:02:40.180
Number one. Does the student
meet the criteria

00:02:40.180 --> 00:02:43.170
for at least one of the
federal disability categories

00:02:43.170 --> 00:02:44.770
recognized in California?

00:02:45.810 --> 00:02:48.420
Two.
Does the disability adversely

00:02:48.420 --> 00:02:51.170
affect the student's
educational performance?

00:02:51.170 --> 00:02:53.390
And three.
Does the student require

00:02:53.390 --> 00:02:56.250
specially designed instruction
to access education?

00:02:56.960 --> 00:02:59.880
For a closer look at each
of these complex questions,

00:02:59.880 --> 00:03:02.630
scan the QR code that will be
at the end of this video.

00:03:03.630 --> 00:03:05.570
Number six.
Even if your child

00:03:05.570 --> 00:03:08.150
is not eligible
for special education right now,

00:03:08.150 --> 00:03:10.720

the assessment process
can be a starting point

00:03:10.720 --> 00:03:12.760
to consider
other sources of help.

00:03:12.760 --> 00:03:14.800
For example, the IEP team
might recommend

00:03:14.800 --> 00:03:16.110
that a 504 plan

00:03:16.110 --> 00:03:19.000
be developed to provide
accommodations at school.

00:03:19.000 --> 00:03:22.010
Remember, your child
does not need an IEP or a

00:03:22.010 --> 00:03:25.870
504 plan to receive
extra supports for behavior,

00:03:25.870 --> 00:03:27.630
for learning,
or for mental health.

00:03:28.170 --> 00:03:31.930
Lastly, you can always
reach out to EFRC to explore

00:03:31.930 --> 00:03:34.029
what else is available
in our communities.

00:03:34.810 --> 00:03:36.290
Number seven.

00:03:36.290 --> 00:03:38.440
Even if the team
finds your child eligible,

00:03:39.070 --> 00:03:41.919
they are not automatically
placed into special education.

00:03:42.650 --> 00:03:44.670
If this is your child's
first assessment,

00:03:44.670 --> 00:03:47.770
then you will need to consent
to the IEP before your child

00:03:47.770 --> 00:03:50.710
would receive special
education services and supports.

00:03:51.260 --> 00:03:53.230
We hope you'll check out
our other video,

00:03:53.230 --> 00:03:55.550
Five Things to Know
About Special Education

00:03:55.550 --> 00:03:57.430
if you are making
this decision soon.

00:03:58.650 --> 00:04:02.110
EFRC and the East County SELPA
are standing by to help answer

00:04:02.110 --> 00:04:04.340
any questions
you have about this video

00:04:04.340 --> 00:04:06.530
or any special education topic.

00:04:06.530 --> 00:04:09.390
Don't forget to like
and follow us on social media

00:04:09.390 --> 00:04:12.140
and you'll definitely want
to scan the QR code

00:04:12.140 --> 00:04:14.780
to access more resources
about eligibility.

00:04:14.780 --> 00:04:16.050
With ADR, empowering

00:04:16.050 --> 00:04:17.260
families , to

00:04:17.260 --> 00:04:18.860
empower students.