

# **CHILD FIND**

## **A Search for all Children with Disabilities Ages Birth – 21**

### **WHAT IS CHILD FIND?**

**Child Find is the process of identifying, locating and evaluating children with disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services.**

### **WHY IS THERE CHILD FIND?**

**The Madison Local School District wish to identify, locate and evaluate all children, birth through age twenty-one, within the district, with disabilities. Although many school aged disabled children are identified and currently being served by the Madison Local School District, pre-school children, ages 3-5, with disabilities may be unidentified because parents may not be aware that programs and service are now available through the public schools.**

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHILD FIND?**

- To promote public awareness of disabilities**
- To alert parents, professionals, and the public to children who may have special needs**
- To assist school districts in finding children who may have disabilities and who otherwise may not have come to their attention**
- To enable children and families to receive the special education and related services that are needed**

### **WHAT DOES A DISABILITY MEAN?**

**For age Birth to 3 – An established condition known to result in delay, or a documented developmental delay.**

**For ages 3 through 5 – A documented deficit in one or more of the following developmental areas: communication, vision, hearing, motor skills, social emotional/behavioral functioning, self-help skills, and/or cognitive skills.**

**For ages 5 through 21 – Identification of one or more of the following conditions: autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment including deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and/or visual impairment including blindness.**

### **WHO CAN HELP?**

**Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are used to help school districts find any child, age birth-21, who may have a disability and need special education and related services. If you know a child in the Madison Local School District with a disability who is not presently attending school or receiving services from**

**another agency, please contact Sue Thomas, Director of Special Education, at the Madison Local Board of Education (440-428-2166**

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

**The school District will contact the parents of the child to find out if the child needs to be evaluated. Free testing is available to families to determine whether or not a special need exists. If a need is identified, the child can begin receiving the appropriate special education and related services.**

*The sooner we know, the better it goes for every child.*