



Early Childhood

E D U C A T I O N

Mounds View Public Schools

BIRTH TO THREE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Strengthening families through coaching and developmental education for children ages 0–3 and their caregivers.



Mounds View Public Schools offers Early Childhood Education as the beginning step toward the roadmap to post-secondary success. Quality educational opportunities are available to all District families to help children develop the critical skills needed to learn and problem solve.

Why Intervene Early?

- High quality early intervention programs for infants and toddlers can reduce the incidence of future problems in their learning, behavior and health.
- Intervention services are based on your child's individual needs in order to help your child learn and grow. Accessing intervention services as early as possible will ensure the best developmental outcomes for your child.

Early Childhood Development and Referral

1 The referral and evaluation process:

The referral process starts with the Minnesota Department of Education's Help Me Grow program. Mounds View Public Schools receives a referral from Help Me Grow before an initial visit is scheduled to review a child's information and learn more about his or her development. After the initial visit, a team of District staff determines if a comprehensive evaluation is appropriate.

→ **2 Testing and evaluation:** The evaluation takes place over several visits and will consist of gathering information through caregiver interviews, observations, review of records, standardized testing and developmental checklists.



3 Determining eligibility: After gathering information throughout the evaluation process, the team will determine eligibility based on an eligible score or if they demonstrate a medical condition known to hinder development.

→ **4 The Individualized Family Service Plan:** After eligibility has been established, parents will work with the child's team of educators to create a plan that outlines the child's current level of development, determines outcomes that are important for the student/the family and details the services that will help achieve the unique family outcomes. This program is provided at no cost.

help me



**MN Department
of Education
Help Me Grow**

<http://helpmegrowmn.org>

1-866-693-GROW (4769)

General Philosophy

The curriculum approach of the Early Childhood Special Education program is family-centered and routines-based. Parents and caregivers are valuable members of the educational team and know their child best. The goal of the program is to coach the child's caregivers to implement strategies that support their child's development. Services are designed to complement and enhance the family's established routines. Staff work to help families implement strategies into their daily activities to increase the effectiveness of the intervention service. Services and support are typically provided in the home but can also involve other natural environments such as childcare and Early Childhood Family Education settings within the boundaries of Mounds View Public Schools.



What Are Home Visits Like?

Home visits are intended to be time for the child's team to address the specific needs of the child. Updates, concerns, questions and suggestions are shared during each visit to work toward goals within each family's daily routine. Visits are typically one hour long. The frequency of meetings

is determined by the Individualized Family Service Plan. Together the team finds ways to encourage development without disrupting the family's routines. During a visit, the child's caregivers are present and involved. Children are seen in their natural environments with people who know them best.



A Team Approach

The Birth to Three program has a variety of licensed professionals available to meet the diverse educational needs of each child. Parents and caregivers play a significant role in the child's development. They are with the child the most and know them the best. The team relies on and values the input from the child's family in order to accomplish the goals.

The team may include:

- Early Childhood Special Education teacher
- Occupational therapist
- Physical therapist
- Speech-language pathologist
- School psychologist
- Vision teacher
- Deaf/hard of hearing teacher
- School district administrator
- Early Childhood Family Education teacher

The Birth to Three program uses a Primary Service Provider Model. This allows families to connect with one professional service provider while having the entire team available for consultation and direct services as needed. The primary service provider will also serve as the family service coordinator.



www.moundsviewschools.org/earlychildhood



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