

How do I know if my child may benefit from early intervention services?

There are general ages at which children should be able to do certain things. The following may help you determine if your child could benefit from a referral for early intervention services.

Two Years

Kicks large ball

Recognizes familiar pictures in books

Turns a page of a book independently

Three Years

Walks up and down stairs

Responds to directions

Begins to ask questions

Puts together simple puzzles

Strings beads or completes simple lacing

Scribbles with crayons

Feeds self

Asks to use the potty

Can play alone for longer periods of time

Speech is understandable about 80-85% of the time

Four Years

Rides a tricycle

Points to colors and simple shapes.

Knows age and full name

Plays with other children

Answers most questions

Uses 4-5 word sentences

Cuts on a line with scissors

Copies simple shapes

Five Years

Can carry on a conversation

Prints a few capital letters

Recognizes own printed name

Colors within lines

Counts 10 objects

Plays cooperative games

Speech is understandable 95%

of the time

For further information, please contact:

Early Childhood Assessment Team

Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center

420 W North Street

Arcadia, IN 46030

(317) 984-1653



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Special Services Cooperative**

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Learn more about the team at our website

www.hbmcoop.org

Click on the Early Childhood link.



**Hamilton - Boone - Madison
Special Services Cooperative**

**Early Childhood Assessment Team
(ECAT)**

Assessment For Preschool Children 3-5 years old

Hamilton-Boone-Madison Special Services Cooperative

serves the students of Elwood, Frankton-Lapel, Hamilton Heights, Noblesville, Sheridan and South Madison school corporations.

What if I think my child has special needs?

Please call the **Early Childhood Assessment Team (ECAT)** at **317-984-1653**. Someone will speak to you regarding your concerns and help determine the appropriate type of referral.

If your only concern about your child's development is articulation difficulties (unclear speech) a member of the ECAT will help you with the process of initiating a speech referral. If you child is eligible for Speech Therapy, it will be provided at a local elementary school.

If your child has more involved needs, a referral to the ECAT will be made and the Parent Contact for your resident school corporation will assist you in that process.

If you child is **under the age of three**, he or she may be eligible for early intervention services through **First Steps**. If you live in **Hamilton-Boone County** call **(317) 257-2229**, or **Madison County** call **(812) 314-2982**.

How will my child be evaluated?

If a more comprehensive evaluation is needed, the Parent Contact will assist you in deciding which developmental areas need to be evaluated. The Early Childhood Assessment Team can evaluate the areas of speech and language, social, motor, cognitive, and preschool readiness skills. The evaluation team may consist of a speech therapist, who evaluates speech and language skills, a school psychologist who evaluates cognitive skills, an occupational therapist who evaluates fine motor skills, a physical therapist who evaluates gross motor skills, and or an early childhood special education teacher who evaluates social and preschool readiness skills. Other professionals may serve on the team as needed. The exact areas to be evaluated and personnel on the evaluating team will depend upon your child's unique needs.

Parents will bring their child to a 1-2 hour session where they will be evaluated by professionals on the Early Childhood Assessment Team. A range of assessment instruments will help determine a child's strengths and needs. These could include: informal observations, formal measures, parent interviews and rating scales.

Following the assessment, a copy of the evaluation report is mailed to parents and a Case Conference is held to discuss the assessment results and determine if your child is eligible for special education services. If eligible, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is written to address your child's needs.

Where will services be provided?

If your child is eligible for Special Education Services, they will be provided by your local school corporation.

What if my child only has a speech problem?

Children with language impairments are evaluated by a speech/language pathologist in the local school corporation. Results of this evaluation will be shared with you at a Case Conference.

If your child is eligible for Speech/Language Therapy, it will be provided at a local elementary school.

Who is eligible to receive Early Childhood Special Education Services?

Children three years through five years of age, who are determined eligible are entitled to receive services through the public schools.

Eligibility categories include:

Autism Spectrum Disorder

A developmental disability in communication, learning, social interaction and unusual patterns of behavior and /or play.

Blind or Low Vision

Visual impairments that severely affect development.

Cognitive Disability

Demonstrated by significantly below average general intellectual functioning. May be mild to severe in nature.

Deaf or Hard of Hearing

A hearing loss that, with or without amplification, affects learning. A recent audiogram is necessary to document hearing loss.

Deaf-Blind

Hearing and visual impairments that severely affect development.

Developmental Delay

To be eligible as a student with a developmental delay, a child must have a significant delay in one area or moderate delays in two areas including cognitive, language, physical, social, and /or self-help skills.

Emotional Disability

A severe, lengthy emotional condition which interferes with learning.

Language or Speech Impairment

One of several disorders of language or speech.

Orthopedic Impairment

A physical impairment affecting motor development and learning. A doctor's written statement including diagnosis and description of the orthopedic impairment is needed.

Other Health Impairment

Limited strength, vitality, or alertness due to chronic or acute health problems which affect learning. A written diagnostic statement is necessary.

Traumatic Brain Injury

A traumatic brain injury is an acquired injury to the brain resulting in total or partial functional disability of psychosocial impairment that adversely affects a student's educational performance. A written diagnostic statement by a neurologist or physician describing the extent of the traumatic brain injury is needed.

Special education services are available for children three through five years of age, who meet eligibility requirements. Early intervention is important for children with special needs.

All school corporations within the HBM Special Services Cooperative provide services for children determined eligible for special education.