

## Program Description

A preschool aged child may be eligible for special education if s/he meets the criteria of one of the 13 disabling conditions recognized by the IDEA that include:

Autism	Deaf/Blind
Emotional Disturbance	Hearing Impairment
Deafness	Multiple Disability
Intellectual Disability	Other Health Impaired
Orthopedically Impaired	Specific Learning Disability
Speech and Language Impairment	Visually Impaired
Traumatic Brain Injury	

The Early Childhood Special Education Preschool Program is the regional program serving all districts within the San Benito County (SBCOE) Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) provides screening and assessment services. Children that are screened may be referred for an initial psychoeducational assessment. If the child is found eligible for special education services, and Individual Education Program (IEP) team meeting will be scheduled to determine the most appropriate program and related services based on the student's individual strengths and weaknesses demonstrated on the psychoeducational assessment. Related services may or may not include: speech and language services, occupational therapy, assistive technology, parent education, and/or counseling.

The program offers an integrated, non-categorical special education program with various support services to assist with early learning needs. Programs and services are based on neuro-developmental, and research-based instructional practices. The educational focus is on language development, social development, self-help skills, motor development, and pre-academics. Curriculum is aligned with the California Preschool Foundations and the HeadStart Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Children are guided to engage in play-based instructional activities.

## Program Services

### *School Psychology Services*

School Psychologists provide a variety of professional services to support students, particularly assessment and counseling. They are critical team members involved in the placement of students in Special Education classes, programs, and services. They also provide important information and support to teachers and parents/family members regarding student's education, living skills, and behavior management. These services are available to all special education programs operated by the SBCOE Regional Special Education Department.

### *Speech and Language Services*

Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP) assess students for possible impaired speech and language disabilities. If eligible, students are provided direct or itinerant services in the areas of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and augmented communication systems. The SLPs are also available for consultation and support to staff members and parents. They provide formal and informal training related to the implementation of language and communication strategies within the classroom setting.

Services are not provided when language deficits or speech patterns are a result of English as a second language from environmental, economic, or cultural differences.

### *Educationally Based Occupational Therapy Services*

In public schools, occupational therapy (OT) services support the educational team and help the student access the curriculum and engage successfully in purposeful and meaningful school occupations. Occupational therapists use techniques that correct, facilitate or adapt the student's functional performance in postural stability, sensory registration and processing, motor planning, fine and gross motor, activities for daily living, social/play organization of behavior, and environmental adaptations/sive devices. OT therapists play a valuable role in assisting school administrators in planning and implementation issues such as building modifications, new construction, special transportation, curriculum development, safety and injury prevention and technology.

OT may be added to a student's IEP as related services only if they are needed for the student to benefit from the special education services provided. The term *educationally relevant means* that the service must be needed to enable the child to benefit from his or her educational setting. The goals and interventions address the child's present level of academic achievement and functional performance. As with all other related services, a school-based OT should be provided only if a student needs it to benefit from special education. These services are available to all special education programs operated by the SBCOE Regional Special Education Department.