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 Primary School
25350 State Rd. 19
Arcadia, IN 46030
(317) 984-1653

Learn more about the team at our website www.hbmcoop.org. Click on the Early Childhood link.

Hamilton-Boone-Madison Special Services Cooperative serves the students of 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. To make a referral, please call (317) 257-2229.

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.

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
- Cognitive Disability
- Blind or Low Vision
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>A developmental disability in communication, learning, social interaction and unusual patterns of behavior and/or play.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitive Disability</td>
<td>Demonstrated by significantly below average general intellectual functioning. May be mild to severe in nature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blind or Low Vision</td>
<td>Visual impairments that severely affect development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf or Hard of Hearing</td>
<td>A hearing loss that, with or without amplification, affects learning. A recent audiogram is necessary to document hearing loss.</td>
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 Economist evaluation 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.

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.