

Part 1

YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS REQUIRE:

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Their families, early care and education staff, and other service providers to work together as early as possible because ...

this creates a solid foundation to support optimal development.

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Early intervention screening, evaluation, and appropriate services as early as possible because ...

strengthening brain and physical development early on can reduce the prevalence of ongoing and future challenges.

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Part 2

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal law providing early intervention and special education services to children with special needs.

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Part C of IDEA

Provides early intervention services to children from birth to 3 with special needs.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a written document outlining:

the early intervention services a child and family will receive.
the child's needs; the family's strengths and choices; and the Early Intervention team's recommendations.

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Part B of IDEA (Section 619)

Provides special education services to preschool children with special needs.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is a written plan that describes:

the child's educational goals.
services and supports in a school setting.

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Part 3

Early care and education staff can:

- Provide screening and referral for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
- Individualize services for young children with special needs
- Listen, support, and strengthen relationships with families, staff, and service providers
- Advocate for and connect families with local community agencies and resources
- Develop and strengthen local community partnerships with Early Intervention, Child Find, and Early Childhood Special Education

- Learn specific intervention skills from community partners
- Visualize the possibilities for all children

Part 4

10%

Required amount of total funded enrollment for children with special needs

In Head Start and Early Head Start programs, 10% of the total funded enrollment must be children with special needs. This percentage was well exceeded in 2012.

Identifying young children with unique developmental needs, ensuring children receive appropriate and timely services, and helping families navigate eligibility guidelines are essential for Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

Early Head Start (EHS) 2012 (PIR DATA)

20,463 children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) were enrolled
14% of total EHS funded enrollment

12,306 found eligible for Part C services prior to enrollment

+

8,157 found eligible during the EHS enrollment year

Head Start 2012 (PIR DATA)

113,585 children with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) were enrolled
12% of total HS funded enrollment

59,140 found eligible for Part B services prior to the enrollment year

+

54,445 found eligible during the enrollment year

Part 5

Take Action

Early care and education program staff can share resources to help families understand:

How to identify a developmental delay

"VIEW RESOURCE" link: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/families/Growing%20Up/Developmental%20Milestones/DoesYourChildH.htm>

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

"VIEW RESOURCE" link: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/idea/>

Early intervention (birth to 3) and early childhood special education (3 to 5)

"VIEW RESOURCE" link: http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/Disabilities/Services%20to%20Children%20with%20Disabilities/Identifying%20Children%20with%20Disabilities/disabl_fts_00042_081105.html