

YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRE:

Part 1

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.

Part 2

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.

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

Part C of IDEA

Provides early intervention services to children from birth to 3 with disabilities.

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

Part B of IDEA (Section 619)

Provides special education services to preschool children with disabilities.

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

- The child's educational goals
- Services and supports in a school setting

Part 3

Early care and education staff can:

- Provide screening and referral for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
- Individualize services for young children with disabilities
- 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

Inclusion in Head Start means:

- Identifying young children with unique developmental needs
- Ensuring children receive appropriate and timely services
- Helping families navigate eligibility guidelines that are essential for Early Head Start and Head Start programs

The Office of Head Start (OHS) is committed to promoting equity in the systems and services that support young children with disabilities and their families. OHS is dedicated to upholding the principles of equality of access and inclusion that are central to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).