

# Child Find

Do You Know a Child With Special Needs?



## What is Child Find?

If you know a child between the ages of 3 and 22 who seems to have difficulty learning, help is available

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth ages 3 to 22 years of age who are suspected of having or have a diagnosed disability or developmental delay, in order to provide appropriate special education services under the law.

Referrals for evaluation may be made for any child presently living in Marin County, regardless of whether the child attends a public or private school, is homeless, a migrant, or a ward of the state.

### When

If you suspect a child may have special needs, make a referral. Don't wait until your child enters school before you refer.

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### Who

Anyone who is concerned about a child, may make a referral

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### Who to Call

If you suspect your child may have special needs, call one of the numbers listed.

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## Special Education

Special Education is instruction designed to meet the unique needs of the individual student with disabilities from ages 3 to 22 years of age. It is defined as:

- Specially designed instruction
- At no cost to the parent
- To meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

Special Education services may be provided in a variety of educational settings, but are required by federal law to be delivered in the least restrictive environment.

## When should a child be referred?

A child should be referred when the child:

- Has a health or medical disorder interferes with development or learning
- Seems to have difficulty hearing or seeing
- Appears to have social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn or interact with others
- Has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually impair or impede the child's ability to learn
- Seems to have difficulty understanding directions like others his/her age
- His/her speech is not understood by family or friends
- Has difficulty with reading, writing, math or other school subjects.

Concerns need not be limited to those listed above. Any condition which may affect a child's ability to learn can be the basis for a referral.

## Who may refer a child?

Anyone who suspects that a child has a developmental delay or a disability should refer that child to determine eligibility to receive special education and related services (for example, speech, physical or occupational therapies).

Children may be referred by any of the following:

- Physicians
- School personnel
- Child care provider
- Community agencies
- Parents/legal guardian
- Other family members

Parent involvement and consent is needed for further action. Information is confidential and the privacy of children and parents is protected.



## If you suspect a child has a disability, call us!

Contact the administrator at your child's school of attendance  
or the District contact listed below

<b>Bolinas-Stinson</b>	415-868-1603	<b>Ross Valley</b>	415-451-4065
<b>Dixie</b>	415-492-3251	<b>San Rafael</b>	415-492-3220
<b>Kentfield</b>	415-458-5130	<b>Sausalito-Marin City</b>	415-332-3190
<b>Laguna</b>	707-762-6051	<b>Shoreline</b>	707-878-2266
<b>Lagunitas</b>	415-488-4118	<b>Tamalpais</b>	415-945-1011
<b>Larkspur-Corte Madera</b>	415-927-6960	<b>Union</b>	707-762-2047
<b>Lincoln</b>	707-763-0045		
<b>Mill Valley</b>	415-389-7751		
<b>Nicasio</b>	415-662-2184		
<b>Novato</b>	415-493-4267		
<b>Reed</b>	415-381-1112		
<b>Ross</b>	415-457-2705		

If the child is 3 to 5 years old and lives in one of the following school districts: Bolinas-Stinson, Dixie, Kentfield, Laguna, Lagunitas, Lincoln, Nicasio, Reed, Ross, Sausalito-Marin City, Shoreline, or Union, contact the Marin County Office of Education at 415-472-1969.

## How Can I Help?

If you know of a child or youth with disabilities who is not in school or receiving special assistance, you can help by:

- Giving a copy of this to the parents or guardians of the child,
- Encouraging the parent/guardian to contact the District Special Education Administrator or the administrator at the child's school, and
- Lending support to the child and his/her parents/guardians until the referral is completed.

## Why Should I Help?

- A free appropriate public education is the right of every child with a disability, age 3 through 21.
- The law provides for early intervention services for children with a disability, birth through two years of age.
- Parents of children and youth with disabilities need your support and assistance.
- Your local school district needs your help in locating these children.
- Without your help, children with disabilities may not be found.

## We Can Help

Many children are born with or may develop disabilities which challenge their normal development, impacting their success in school. Fortunately, many of these conditions can be helped if parents recognize the problem early and seek help.

If you suspect your child may have special needs, call your school district. Don't hesitate to call their attention to, and/or seek advice about particular behaviors or possible difficulties your child may be experiencing. Remember, the earlier you recognize your child's special needs and seek help, the greater the possibility that your child can be helped.

## Overview of Process

### Step 1: Referral

A referral is made. Parents provide written consent for the evaluation.

### Step 2: Evaluation

Evaluations are conducted by the appropriate Special Education Staff.

### Step 3: IEP Meeting

The IEP Team meets to discuss the evaluation results with the parents and determines eligibility for Special Education and Related Services

If the child is eligible, an IEP will be developed upon your child's educational needs. All services are provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

