

## Special Education Terms

- Consent – written permission required from parent or guardian to begin evaluations and also before placement in special education
- Eligibility – meeting the requirements for special education services
- Evaluation – assessment process to determine eligibility for special education and related services and identify strengths and needs
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) – special education services provided at no cost based on the child's need according to the IEP
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) – individualized plan to support learning that includes the services and supports necessary to reach plan goals
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) – to the maximum extent possible, including and serving children with disabilities in the same programs as typically developing peers
- Progress Monitoring – collecting data to determine children's progress and plan instruction
- Referral Conference – meeting to discuss the referral and next steps

## ECSE Eligibility Categories

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Hearing Impairment
- Multiple Disabilities
- Non-Categorical
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

## For more information, contact:

### Early Childhood 619 Program Coordinator

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## Early Childhood Special Education

Division of Elementary and  
Secondary Education



## Purpose

The Arkansas Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program is responsible for ensuring that a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is available and provided to all children with disabilities ages 3-5 in Arkansas. The primary goals of ECSE are to improve educational results for children with disabilities by providing quality services in the child's Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and to ensure that all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) meet the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) program requirements. The program works to promote development in the areas of fine motor, gross motor, cognitive skills, receptive and expressive communication, social-emotional development, self-help, speech articulation, and to help children achieve healthy developmental progressions.

## Do you suspect a disability?

Any person who has knowledge of a child and suspects a delay in development can make a referral to consider special education and related services. A delay may be present if the child is not meeting [typical developmental milestones](#).

## Who do I contact if I suspect a disability?

Services for eligible children are provided through the local school district or area educational cooperative. Contact your local school [district special education supervisor](#) for more information or details on the referral process.



***“...The IEP (Individualized Education Program) is the cornerstone of the special education process and the key to services your child receives.”***

**A Family's Guide to Special Education in Arkansas**

## Where are services provided?

ECSE services are provided, to the greatest extent possible, in settings with typically developing peers to promote the child's ability to participate in typical daily activities. These services can be provided in any location that best meets the needs of the child and family. Locations can include

- Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) programs,
- Head Start programs,
- Licensed daycare facilities, or
- Other locations where the child spends the day.