



## WHAT IS SPECIAL EDUCATION?

Special education is a program designed to meet the unique educational needs of individuals with disabilities from birth to 22 years of age who meet the eligibility criteria under the law.

It is defined as:

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

Special education services may be provided in a variety of education settings, but services are required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to be delivered in the least restrictive environment.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES?

A student must be evaluated by the school district and be identified as having a disability that requires special education to be eligible to receive special education programs and related services.

Eligibility categories include the following:

- ◆ Hearing impairment (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)
- ◆ Hearing and Visual Impairment (Deaf/Blind)
- ◆ Speech and Language Impairment
- ◆ Visual Impairment (VI)
- ◆ Severe Orthopedic Impairment
- ◆ Autism
- ◆ Intellectual Disability
- ◆ Emotional Disturbance
- ◆ Specific Learning Disability
- ◆ Other Health Impairment
- ◆ Multiple Disabilities
- ◆ Established Medical Disability (Age 3 or 4 only)
- ◆ Traumatic Brain Injury



**Capistrano Unified School District**  
 Special Education Department  
 33122 Valle Road  
 San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675  
 Phone: (949) 234-9270  
 Fax: (949) 240-9047

# ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?



**Capistrano Unified School District**



## WHAT IS CHILD FIND?

Child Find is a process of identifying, locating, and evaluating children and youth, birth to 22 years of age, who are suspected of having or have been diagnosed with a disability or developmental delay. The school district provides appropriate special education services under Federal and State laws to students with disabilities.



## WHEN SHOULD A CHILD BE REFERRED TO CHILD FIND?

A child should be referred when:

- ▶ A health or a medical disorder interferes with the child's development and or learning.
- ▶ A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing.
- ▶ A child appears to have social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn or interact with others.

- ▶ A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually interfere with the child's ability to learn.
- ▶ A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like other children that are his/her age.
- ▶ A child's speech is not understood by family or friends.
- ▶ A child has difficulty with reading, writing, math, or other school subjects.



## WHO MAY REFER A CHILD?


A child may be referred by any of the following:


- *Parents/legal guardians*
- *Other family members*
- *Physicians*
- *School personnel*
- *Child care providers*
- *Community agencies*
- *Infants & Toddlers program staff*
- *Student Study Team (S.S.T)*
- *Charter school staff*
- *Private school staff*




## HOW CAN A CHILD BE REFERRED?

Referral for assessment needs to be made in writing. An Individual Education Program (IEP) meeting will be scheduled within 60 days of parents' consent for assessment to discuss the assessment results and eligibility for special education and related services.

 If your child is under 2 years 10 months of age, please contact the Regional Center of Orange County for an intake interview at (714) 796-5354 or [intake@rcocdd.com](mailto:intake@rcocdd.com).

 If your child is preschool age (starting at 2 years 10 months), contact Dr. Rana Shah at (949) 234-9293 or [rmshah@capousd.org](mailto:rmshah@capousd.org).

 If your child is Transitional Kindergarten aged or older, contact your local school, to be referred to the appropriate special education staff member who can assist you.

Parent involvement and agreement must be obtained prior to assessment or provision of services. Information is confidential and the privacy of children and parents is protected.