

The Arlington Public Schools' Early Childhood "Child Find" Program

(*Step 1)



Program Summary

Arlington Public Schools offers a variety of services to Arlington County residents for preschool children (ages 2 to 5) found eligible as having special needs.

The goal of the preschool program is to provide services to help prepare each child to function as independently as possible in a classroom and achieve his/her highest potential.

Although services vary, they all emphasize socialization, whole child development, and interaction with typical children.



The following services may be available to eligible children:

- up to a five-hour per day preschool program
- speech and language therapy
- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- adaptive physical education
- vision/mobility services
- hearing training
- community-based resource services

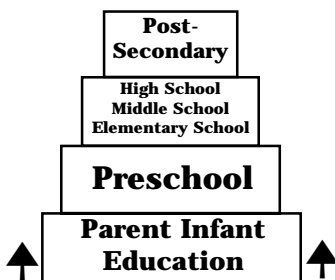
Preschool activities can include:

- speech and language development to foster a total communication approach
- gross and fine motor skills
- self-help and independent living skills
- social, emotional, and behavioral skills
- cognitive/general knowledge skills



The eligibility process involves six important steps:

- 1) If you feel your child has special needs, call the **Arlington Schools' Child Find Program** at **228-6042** to refer your child to the program.
- 2) Within 10 administrative days, there is a **Student Study Committee** meeting to discuss your child's needs and to make recommendations regarding the need to obtain further evaluation components or information. You are encouraged to come to this meeting.
- 3) If recommended and with your signed permission, **an evaluation** for special education is conducted. The evaluation process is completed by a multi-disciplinary team within 65 administrative days of receipt of referral.
- 4) When the evaluation is complete, an **Eligibility Meeting** is held. The eligibility meeting reviews the assessment results and determines if your child is eligible for special education services.
- 5) If eligible, an **Individual Education Plan (IEP)** is completed within 30 calendar days. The IEP team determines the needs of your child and decides on goals and objectives for your child for the next twelve months. Your input is vital to the success of the IEP.
- 6) Then, your child is provided an appropriate program as specified in the IEP.



For further information,
please call or write:

*The Arlington Public Schools'
Child Find Program*

Department of Student Services
Office of Special Education
Arlington Public Schools
1426 N. Quincy St.
Arlington, Va. 22207
703-228-6042

