

FINDING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE CHILD FIND PROCESS: BIRTH TO AGE 8

Maureen Powers, M.Ed.

Rene Manning, M.Ed.

WELCOME!

- ▶ Show of hands for participant groups
 - ▶ Parents
 - ▶ Teachers
 - ▶ Leaders
 - ▶ Administrators
 - ▶ Coaches/other support roles
 - ▶ Other

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ When you leave here today you should be able to:
 - ▶ Refer concerned parents and families to the appropriate referral agency for children birth to age 8
 - ▶ Explain to parents what the Child Find process is and what it is not
 - ▶ Explain to parents and families what they can expect during the Child Find process for children birth to age 8

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

- ▶ Please write on chart paper and post around the room any burning questions you have about Child Find and the Child Find process
 - ▶ We will do our best to address your questions throughout the presentation
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LET'S PLAY THE ACRONYM GAME!

- ▶ Cards will be dealt to each participant with a combination of acronyms and definitions equally distributed to players
- ▶ Presenters will lead with the first acronym question
 - ▶ Example: “What is F-A-P-E?”
- ▶ Participant holding the card with the answer will say “I have Free and Appropriate Public Education” and then lead with the acronym on their card
 - ▶ Example: “What is P-S-D? “

WHAT CHILD FIND IS

- ▶ The Child Find process requires states to provide developmental screenings for all children with suspected disabilities from birth through age 21 (including those in public, charter, and private schools, homeless, wards of the state, migrant workers)
- ▶ Is offered at no cost to the families
- ▶ Child Find is a process of identifying (finding) children who may have developmental or academic concerns so that specialized intervention services can be considered
- ▶ Child Find begins the screening process

WHAT CHILD FIND IS NOT

- ▶ Child Find is NOT special education
 - ▶ Child Find is NOT testing for special education services
 - ▶ Child Find is NOT preschool or childcare
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LAWS AND LEGISLATION

▶ IDEA Part C

- ▶ Every state has its own Early Intervention referral system
- ▶ Every State establishes its own criteria for determining eligibility for intervention services
- ▶ Services should be provided in a “natural environment” such as a community child care program or home
- ▶ Families are central to the interventions

▶ IDEA Part B

- ▶ The Public Education Agency (PEA) is responsible for Child Find and delivery of specialized services
- ▶ Every State establishes its own criteria for determining eligibility for special education services

MAIN PARTS TO CHILD FIND PROCESS

- ▶ Public awareness
 - ▶ Referral and intake
 - ▶ Screening and identification
 - ▶ Eligibility determination
 - ▶ Tracking
 - ▶ Interagency coordination
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IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENT-MAKE A REFERRAL!

Infants and Toddlers (2 years 10.5 months):

- ▶ In Arizona, referrals can be made to the local AzEIP office. The following web site will locate the nearest AzEIP office:
<https://extranet.azdes.gov/AzEIP/FamilyInfo/FamilyInformation/FamilyInfo.aspx>
X
- ▶ For other states, if the local school district does not handle Child Find for infants and toddlers, the ECTA Center provides the names and contact numbers for the Lead Agency. <http://ectacenter.org/contact/ptccoord.asp>

Three to Five and Five to Eight

- ▶ The following web site will help anyone across the United States to determine the Public Education Agency (PEA) associated with the address of the home of the child of concern <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/districtsearch/>

WHO MUST RECEIVE AND HONOR THE CHILD FIND REFERRAL?

- ▶ Birth to 2 years 10.5 month
 - ▶ In Arizona-AZ-EIP
- ▶ 2 years 10.5 months to 5 years
 - ▶ Public Education Agency (PEA)
- ▶ 5 years to 21 years
 - ▶ (PEA) completes the referral typically after the Response to Intervention (RTI) process has begun and interventions have not been successful over a period of time

WHEN IN DOUBT

- ▶ Always contact your local school district for directions about how to access Child Find services for any age
- ▶ School personnel are required by law to have training about Child Find every year
- ▶ After a referral has been made, Child Find should be conducted within 45 calendar days

CHILD FIND OVERVIEW

- ▶ Let's explore a video about a Child Find and Early Intervention Services.
- ▶ `<iframe width="420" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/BgrpOHlnO7c" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN CHILD FIND DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING?

- ▶ Vision and hearing
 - ▶ Cognitive or academic development
 - ▶ Communication
 - ▶ Motor
 - ▶ Social or behavioral development
 - ▶ Adaptive development
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HOW TO TALK TO PARENTS AND FAMILIES ABOUT A CHILD FIND REFERRAL

- ▶ Talking to parents about a concern regarding their child can be a challenge
- ▶ Remember that a diagnosis has not been made, so avoid language that implies one
- ▶ Parents feel personally responsible when a child is not developing or performing at the rate of their peers
- ▶ Young children develop at rapid and uneven rates within acceptable developmental limits so comparing children and making assumptions may lead to unnecessary angst
- ▶ Role Play Scenarios

CHILD FIND BIRTH TO THREE: WHAT TO EXPECT IN AZ

- ▶ Any child birth to 36 who is developmentally delayed or who has an established condition, which has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay is eligible for AzEIP services
- ▶ After the initial child find referral, the family is contacted by AzEIP to set up the initial planning process (IPP)
- ▶ The IPP includes
 - ▶ Assessment
 - ▶ Eligibility determination
 - ▶ If eligible, an IFSP

CHILD FIND BIRTH TO THREE (CONT'D)

- ▶ The family will be visited by a Service Coordinator who will come to the home and meet with the family to gather information about medical history, growth and development, family concerns, interests, goals, etc.
- ▶ During this visit, the service coordinator will observe the child and may or may not conduct more formal evaluations depending on the existing records and needs
- ▶ If more in depth evaluations are needed, the Service Coordinator will schedule them in consultation with families

AFTER CHILD FIND BIRTH TO THREE

- ▶ If the child is found to be eligible for services, an IFSP is developed by a team with input from the family
- ▶ Services are provided in the “natural environment” such as the home or the child care program
- ▶ Children may remain in AzEIP until the age of three or a need no longer exists for interventions
- ▶ At approximately 2 1/2 years of age, the Service Coordinator will discuss future needs and begin to bridge with the local school district for continued services (school district, Head Start, child care program, etc.) if further intervention is needed

CHILD FIND THREE TO FIVE: WHAT TO EXPECT

- ▶ Any child who is suspected of having a developmental delay in any area may be referred for Child Find
- ▶ Once a referral has been made, the Child Find Coordinator will provide a date for the screening
- ▶ Parents will arrive at the location of the Child Find screening with their child
- ▶ Children will have their vision and hearing tested by a person with appropriate certifications and training as per AZ Code

CHILD FIND THREE TO FIVE (CONT'D)

- ▶ Child will be asked to go with a qualified early childhood professional or team of professionals who will play a series of “games” with the child to evaluate development in five major domains
- ▶ Parent (s) will be given a developmental questionnaire to complete while the child is being screened
- ▶ If the results of the screener indicate a need for further investigation, another appointment will be made for a comprehensive developmental assessment with a licensed school psychologist and relevant specialists (speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc.)

AFTER CHILD FIND AGE THREE TO FIVE

- ▶ If a child is referred for a comprehensive evaluation and appointment will be made to meet with parents/guardians and fully disclose the types of evaluations and assessments that will be conducted
- ▶ Next, the child will participate in one or more evaluations to determine eligibility for early intervention or special education services.
- ▶ A meeting will be held to discuss the results of the comprehensive evaluations and recommendations will be made either that no services are needed, or that services are needed.
- ▶ If services are needed, an IEP will be developed to detail the intervention services, how they will be delivered and goals for the child.

BEST PRACTICE EARLY INTERVENTION PROCESS: AGE 3 TO 5

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src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/C4cznCIUgUY" frameborder="0"  
allowfullscreen></iframe>
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SCHOOL AGED SCREENING

- ▶ A brief developmental screening must be conducted for every public, charter school student (including preschool):
 - ▶ Within 45 days after the first day of school
 - ▶ After transfer or enrollment in a new school
 - ▶ When no enrollment data or educational data is available for review for the current academic year
 - ▶ If there is prior special education history but the child is not currently eligible, for services, the student must be considered for a full and individual evaluation or other services
 - ▶ If parents notify the school with concerns regarding their child's developmental or academic progress

CHILD FIND AGE FIVE TO EIGHT: RTI

- ▶ Response to Intervention (RTI) is a systematic method for evaluating the needs of all students
- ▶ May be used to assist schools in identifying students in need of exceptional student services and an individualized education plan (IEP)
- ▶ RTI has three levels of intervention
 - ▶ Tier I-Universal instruction and screening
 - ▶ Tier II-Targeted interventions and progress monitoring
 - ▶ Tier III-Intensive interventions and progress monitoring

CALENDAR TIMELINES

- ▶ Birth to 5 referral
 - ▶ 2 business days
- ▶ Screening
 - ▶ 45 days after referral for Child Find
- ▶ Parent notification of concerns
 - ▶ 10 days
- ▶ Comprehensive Evaluation (if found to be needed)
 - ▶ 60 days

CHILD FIND SCENARIO:ACTIVITY

- ▶ Small groups receive Child Find scenario for a child age birth to eight years and process cards with process steps
- ▶ Groups order the steps in the process appropriate to the age of the child in the scenario
- ▶ Each group shares steps in the Child Find Process

“Every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be”

Rita Pierson

REFERENCES

- ▶ Arizona Department of Education (n.d.). *Az response to intervention (RTI)*. Retrieved from: <http://www.azed.gov/school-effectiveness/files/2011/11/secondary1-response-to-intervention-plan.pdf>
- ▶ Department of Economic Security (n.d.). *AzEIP frequently asked questions*. Retrieved from: <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant/azeip-frequently-asked-questions>
- ▶ Kupper, L. (2014) *Pre-referral and referral activities, Module 3*. National Dissemination Center on Children with Disabilities. Retrieved from: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/partc-module3/>

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

- ▶ Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA '04)
 - ▶ 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.111 and 303.321 – Child Find
 - ▶ 34 C.F.R. § 300.30 – Definition of Parent
- ▶ Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.)
 - ▶ R7-2-401 (B)(24) – Definition of Screening
 - ▶ R7-2-401 (C) – Public Awareness
 - ▶ R7-2-401 (D) – Child Identification and Referral