



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: June 3, 2021

Polk County Sheriff's Office
1676 Rockmart Hwy
Cedartown GA 30125

Dear Sheriff Johnny Moats

Polk School District Office of Exceptional Student Services and Supports is reaching out in an effort to address the requirements of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA or IDEA, Part B). IDEA requires that each state have policies and procedures to ensure that all children with disabilities, birth through age 21, residing in the State and who are in need of special education and related services or early intervention services are identified, located, and evaluated. 34 C.F.R. § 300.111; 34 C.F.R. § 303.302. Polk School District has Child Find responsibility for all children within their jurisdiction suspected of having disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. This includes children ages 3-21 in the Georgia Department of Corrections and children incarcerated in state juvenile or correctional facilities.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has given guidance to all state districts that we have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all eligible students with disabilities residing in State and local adult correctional facilities. We would like to work with you, as we respect and understand that the main concern of the facility would be to ensure safety. Our goal would be to identify and evaluate any individual housed in your facilities under the age of 21 that may be suspected of having an educational disability. In an effort for Polk School District to adhere to IDEA guidance we ask that you notify us of any student that you may discover that has already been identified as being a student with a disability or you may suspect as having a disability. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Julie R. Moilanen
Director of Special Education
602 South College Street
Cedartown GA 30125



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM:

TO: WZOT Radio

FROM: Polk School District Office of Exceptional Student Services

DATE: June 3, 2021

RE: Identification of Children with Disabilities

The Office of Exceptional Students of Polk School District is attempting to identify all children ages 3-21 in need of special education services. The enclosed public awareness notice is part of an ongoing Child Find effort as mandated by federal law.

We would greatly appreciate the radio's assistance. Please make the following public service announcement. The announcement can be made one time a week during the weeks of June 14-18 and June 21-25.

We understand that there will be no charge for the public service announcement. We also kindly ask your assistance in documentation for our state and federal records. If you could notify us this announcement was made, it would be greatly appreciated.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Should you or your clients have any questions, please contact:

Office of Exceptional Student Services
Polk School District
602 South College Street
Cedartown GA 30125
770-684-8718
nancy.woods@polk.k12.ga.us

Enclosure

Subject: Public Service Announcement
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 2:20:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Woods, Nancy
To: brian@wzotradio.com
Attachments: PSA Announcment 2020.doc, Child Find Letter for Radio June 2021.docx

Good Afternoon

The attached is a public service announcement that we would like broadcast. Thanks so much for your assistance.

Mrs. Nancy E. Woods
Special Education Coordinator
Polk School District
Office of Exceptional Students
770-684-8718
nancy.woods@polk.k12.ga.us



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM:

TO: The Standard

FROM: Polk School District Office of Exceptional Student Services

DATE: June 3, 2021

RE: Identification of Children with Disabilities

The Office of Exceptional Students of Polk School District is attempting to identify all children ages 3-21 in need of special education services. The enclosed public awareness notice is part of an ongoing Child Find effort as mandated by federal law.

We would greatly appreciate your newspaper's assistance. Please print the enclosed notice as a public service announcement as part of the community calendar of events in one of your upcoming issues between June 13-19, 2021 and June 20-16, 2021.

We understand that there will be no charge for the public service announcement. We also kindly ask your assistance in documentation for our state and federal records. Please notify us as to which issue will carry this announcement.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

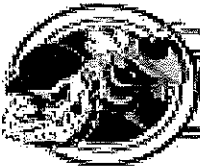
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Polk School District
602 South College Street
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770-684-8718

Enclosure

Public Service Announcement

The Office of Exceptional Students of Polk School District is available to assist with the identification of children with disabilities and provision of a free appropriate public education beginning at the age of three through the age of 21. If you suspect your child is experiencing any developmental delays or you suspect your child might have a disability and would like assistance or for more information about services available through Polk School District, contact Polk School District Exceptional Student Services, 770-684-8718.



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorandum

To: Polk County Real Estate Offices

From: Office of Exceptional Student Services

Date: June 3, 2021

Re: Child Find/Public Awareness

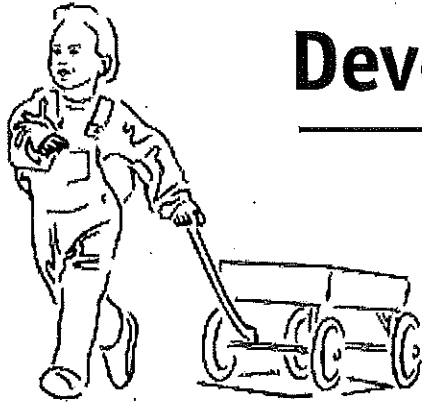
The Office of Exceptional Student Services of Polk School District is attempting to identify all children with disabilities beginning at age three who are in need of special education services and support. The enclosed sheet is for distribution to newcomers to our community. Listed are early signs of learning difficulties or disabling conditions this is part of our ongoing public awareness/Child Find effort which is required by law.

We recognize you may be the first organization to become aware of children with disabilities who are new to our community. We would greatly appreciate your assistance as you distribute these awareness sheets to parents who come in contact with your services, or who question you about the availability of services for students with disabilities in the Polk County area.

Thank you for your assistance. Should you or your clients have any questions, please contact:

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Polk School District
602 South College Street
Cedartown GA 30125
770-684-8718

Enclosures



Developmental Delay

NICHCY Disability Fact Sheet #9
Updated March 2012

Introduction

Think of all the skills that children have to learn when they come into the world: smiling, turning over, responding to people, communicating, eating solid food, crawling, standing, and on and on. We expect these skills to emerge naturally over time and know more or less when they should. At 3 months, Susana will probably be doing *this*, at 4 months, she'll be doing *that*. By a year, well, she'll be tottering around, getting into everything.

This timetable for skills to emerge is commonly called the *developmental milestones*. What's considered normal development is described broadly, because children don't necessarily learn skills at the same pace. Two different children born on the same day may learn the same skill months apart, and both can be considered "on schedule." It's when skills *don't* emerge as

expected, more or less on that broad schedule, that parents and caregivers may become concerned.

If You're Concerned About a Child's Development

If you're reading this, perhaps you've become concerned about your child or one you care for. We're glad you're reading this, because there are many immediate things you can do to learn more and help your

child. First, know that there's help available to find out just what the difficulties are, if any, and there's help available to address those difficulties. The good news is that this help is usually free, and it's available in every state.

First, you may want to talk with your pediatrician about your child's development. Don't be surprised if the pediatrician tells you not to worry, to be patient, to give your child more time to develop. Often, that's what parents hear, especially in the early stages of investigating their child's seeming delays. And it's often true. Children develop at different rates; the pediatrician is well aware that many children show sudden bursts in development rather than slow, steady growth.

On the other hand, your pediatrician may suggest that a developmental screening be conducted to see if, in fact, your child is experiencing a *developmental delay*. The screening is a quick, general measure of your child's skills



is the

National Dissemination Center
for Children with Disabilities.

NICHCY

1825 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
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and development. It's not detailed enough to make a diagnosis, but its results indicate broadly whether or not a child should be referred for a more indepth *developmental evaluation*.

What's Involved in the Developmental Evaluation

The developmental evaluation should be conducted by a highly trained professional who can use the results to create a profile of your child's strengths and weaknesses across the range of five developmental areas. Those areas are:

- Physical development (fine motor skills, gross motor skills)
- Cognitive development (intellectual abilities)
- Communication development (speech and language)
- Social or emotional development (social skills, emotional control)
- Adaptive development (self-care skills)

The results of the developmental evaluation will be used to decide if your child needs *early intervention services* and/or a treatment plan. Early intervention services are specifically tailored to meet a child's individual needs and, as such, are a very important resource to children experiencing developmental delays.

For example, early intervention services can include:

- Assistive technology (devices a child might need)
- Audiology or hearing services
- Speech and language services
- Counseling and training for a family
- Medical services

- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services



Things to Know

- States have a positive obligation to help children who are experiencing a developmental delay in one or more areas.
- Through the Child Find system that each state operates, developmental screenings and developmental evaluations are usually provided free of charge to families.
- If you're concerned about your child's development, talk to your child's pediatrician, who can refer you to the Child Find system in your area.
- Early intervention services are meant for children under the age of three. These services are usually provided to eligible families either free of charge or on a sliding payment scale that's determined by the family's income.
- You can find out how to access early intervention services in your area by talking to your child's pediatrician, calling a local hospital, or using NICHCY's *State Resource Sheet* for your state. All of our state sheets are available online, this moment, at: <http://nichcy.org/state-organization-search-by-state>

Once you've selected a state sheet to view, select "State Agencies" from the drop-down menu and click SEARCH. The contact information for the early intervention program for your state will appear in the list of state agencies you receive.

- NECTAC (the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center) is also a great source of this information. Use NECTAC's Contact Finder at: <http://www.nectac.org/contact/contact.asp>
- Special education services are meant for children over the age of three. Services are provided to eligible children free of charge through the public school system. If your child has passed his or her third birthday and you're concerned about a developmental delay or disability, call your local school (even if your child isn't enrolled there). Ask how and where to have your child evaluated under IDEA, our nation's special education law.

IDEA's Definition of Developmental Delay

As we just said, IDEA is the nation's special education law. Its full name is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Through IDEA, early intervention services and special education services are made available to eligible children with developmental delays and disabilities.

Not surprisingly, IDEA includes a definition of developmental delay, which may be useful to know. Here it is:

Child with a disability for children aged three through nine (or any subset of that age range, including ages three through five), may...include a child—

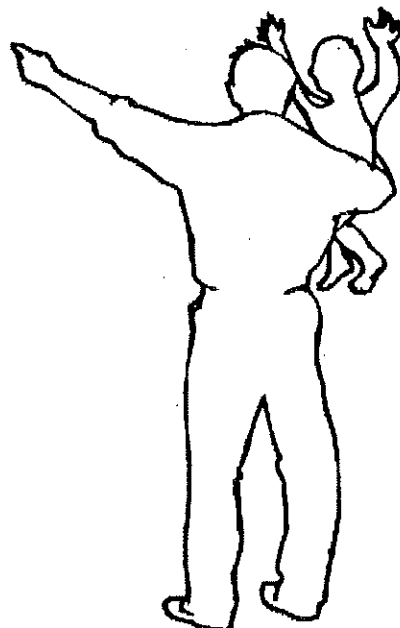
(1) Who is experiencing developmental delays as defined by the State and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures in one or more of the following areas: Physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development; and

(2) Who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.
[34 CFR §300.8(b)]

It's a good idea to find out if your state has added details to this definition of *developmental delay*. States are allowed to do so, if they choose. They also decide on the *age range of children* with whom the term may be used (3-5, 3-9, or any subset between 3-9). Your local school or early intervention program should be able to tell you the definition of developmental delay that's used in your area. You can also visit NECTAC (mentioned earlier) and find out how your state defines developmental delay, as well as the criteria of eligibility for services to young children, birth through 2 years of age, and their families. NECTAC makes this information available online at: <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/nnotes21.pdf>

It may be helpful to know that:

- your state may not *require* that your local school district also adopt and use the term developmental delay in working with children;
- if your local school district decides to use the term, it must use the same definition and age range as the state does;
- your local school district *may not* use the term at all if your state has chosen not to use the term.



Resources for You

It can be very helpful to read more about developmental delay. This has been just a brief overview, with pointers to loads of additional info and support. Below, we've identified a range of materials you can explore, which will of course lead you to still more!

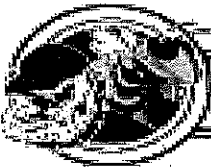
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- *Developmental milestones.*
From NICHCY's own site.
<http://nichcy.org/disability/milestones/>
- *What is developmental delay?*
From How Kids Develop.
<http://www.howkidsdevelop.com/developDevDelay.html>
- *Developmental delay.*
From the Encyclopedia of Children's Health.
<http://www.healthofchildren.com/D/Developmental-Delay.html>
- *Developmental delays.*
From Keep Kids Healthy.
<http://www.keepkidshealthy.com/welcome/conditions/developmentaldelays.html>
- *First Signs.*
All about early detection of developmental delays and disabilities, especially autism.
<http://www.firstsigns.org/>
- *Connect with other parents.*
Interested in talking to other parents whose children have developmental delays? Try Parent to Parent. They'll connect you with other parents like yourself for support and exchange.
<http://www.p2pusa.org>
- *Connect with the disability community and parent expertise.*
Every state has a Parent Training and Information Center, known as the PTI. Some states have several. If you are looking to connect with state and local resources, or have questions about services and parent rights, talk to your PTI. Find the PTI for your state by visiting our State Resource Sheets, at:
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NICHCY Disability Fact Sheet #9
Updated March 2012



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POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorandum

**To: Mr. Johnathan Kirsch
Federal Programs Director
McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

From: Office of Exceptional Student Services

Date: June 3, 2021

Re: Child Find

The Office of Exceptional Student Services of Polk School District is available to assist with the identification of children with disabilities and provision of a free appropriate public education beginning at the age of three. Enclosed you will find some informational handouts to share with parents. This information is part of Polk School District's effort to provide ongoing awareness and child find activities for parents/guardians who come in contact with your services.

Please copy and distribute this information to parents/guardians as needs dictate. Should you or any parents have questions regarding the identification of and/or services for children with disabilities please contact:

Office of Exceptional Student Services
Polk School District
602 South College Street
Cedartown GA 30125
770-684-8718

Enclosures



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For example, early intervention services can include:

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Things to Know

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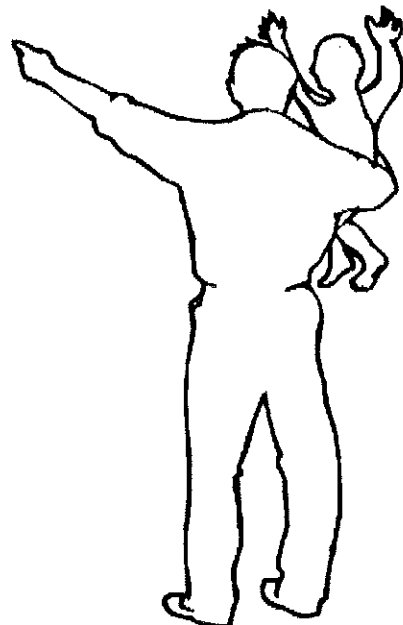
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All about early detection of developmental delays and disabilities, especially autism.
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POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorandum

To: Polk County Health Department
Polk County Area Physicians
Division of Family and Children Services

From: Office of Exceptional Student Services

Date: June 3, 2021

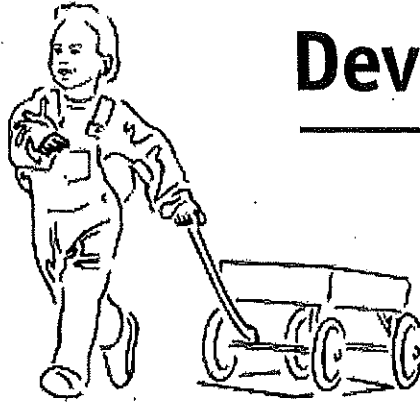
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- Early intervention services are meant for children under the age of three. These services are usually provided to eligible families either free of charge or on a sliding payment scale that's determined by the family's income.
- You can find out how to access early intervention services in your area by talking to your child's pediatrician, calling a local hospital, or using NICHCY's *State Resource Sheet* for your state. All of our state sheets are available online, this moment, at: <http://nichcy.org/state-organization-search-by-state>

Once you've selected a state sheet to view, select "State Agencies" from the drop-down menu and click SEARCH. The contact information for the early intervention program for your state will appear in the list of state agencies you receive.

- NECTAC (the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center) is also a great source of this information. Use NECTAC's Contact Finder at: <http://www.nectac.org/contact/contact.asp>
- Special education services are meant for children over the age of three. Services are provided to eligible children free of charge through the public school system. If your child has passed his or her third birthday and you're concerned about a developmental delay or disability, call your local school (even if your child isn't enrolled there). Ask how and where to have your child evaluated under IDEA, our nation's special education law.

IDEA's Definition of Developmental Delay

As we just said, IDEA is the nation's special education law. Its full name is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Through IDEA, early intervention services and special education services are made available to eligible children with developmental delays and disabilities.

Not surprisingly, IDEA includes a definition of developmental delay, which may be useful to know. Here it is:

Child with a disability for children aged three through nine (or any subset of that age range, including ages three through five), may...include a child—

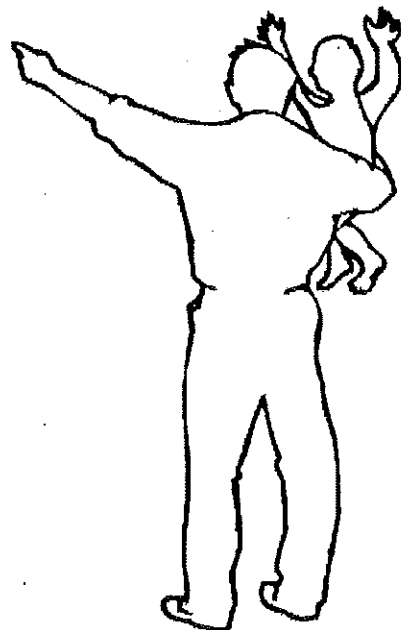
(1) Who is experiencing developmental delays as defined by the State and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures in one or more of the following areas: Physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development; and

(2) Who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.
[34 CFR §300.8(b)]

It's a good idea to find out if your state has added details to this definition of *developmental delay*. States are allowed to do so, if they choose. They also decide on the *age range of children* with whom the term may be used (3-5, 3-9, or any subset between 3-9). Your local school or early intervention program should be able to tell you the definition of developmental delay that's used in your area. You can also visit NECTAC (mentioned earlier) and find out how your state defines developmental delay, as well as the criteria of eligibility for services to young children, birth through 2 years of age, and their families. NECTAC makes this information available online at: <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/nnotes21.pdf>

It may be helpful to know that:

- your state may not *require* that your local school district also adopt and use the term developmental delay in working with children;
- if your local school district decides to use the term, it must use the same definition and age range as the state does;
- your local school district *may not* use the term at all if your state has chosen not to use the term.



Resources for You

It can be very helpful to read more about developmental delay. This has been just a brief overview, with pointers to loads of additional info and support. Below, we've identified a range of materials you can explore, which will of course lead you to still more!

- *Child development.*
All about...from the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/index.html>
- *Developmental screening.*
From CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/screening.html>
- *Developmental milestones.*
From NICHCY's own site.
<http://nichcy.org/disability/milestones/>
- *What is developmental delay?*
From How Kids Develop.
<http://www.howkidsdevelop.com/developDevDelay.html>
- *Developmental delay.*
From the Encyclopedia of Children's Health.
<http://www.healthofchildren.com/D/Developmental-Delay.html>
- *Developmental delays.*
From Keep Kids Healthy.
<http://www.keepkidshealthy.com/welcome/conditions/developmentaldelays.html>
- *First Signs.*
All about early detection of developmental delays and disabilities, especially autism.
<http://www.firstsigns.org/>
- *Connect with other parents.*
Interested in talking to other parents whose children have developmental delays? Try Parent to Parent. They'll connect you with other parents like yourself for support and exchange.
<http://www.p2pusa.org>
- *Connect with the disability community and parent expertise.*
Every state has a Parent Training and Information Center, known as the PTI. Some states have several. If you are looking to connect with state and local resources, or have questions about services and parent rights, talk to your PTI. Find the PTI for your state by visiting our State Resource Sheets, at:
<http://nichcy.org/state-organization-search-by-state>



NICHCY Disability Fact Sheet #9
Updated March 2012



This publication is made possible through Cooperative Agreement #H326N080003 between FHI 360 and the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Education, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Child Find DayCare/Preschool Notification List

ROCKMART	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE	DATE
Creative Kids	Amanda Sanders	770-684-3222	creativekids@bellsouth.net	<i>Amanda Sanders</i>	1-28-21
Faithful Futures	Deann Hall	678-685-4286	deannahall@faithfutures.org	<i>Deanna Hall</i>	1-28-2021
1st Methodist Church	Kristie Hunt	770-547-4014	kristiehunt83@gmail.com	<i>Kristie Hunt</i>	1-28-21
Tallatoona	Donna Sanders	770684-5770	donnas@tallatoonacap.org	<i>Donna Sanders</i>	1-28-2021
CEDARTOWN	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE	DATE
Covenant	Robin Hubbard	770-749-0376	rth8958@aol.com	<i>Sami Otterico</i>	1-29-2021
1st Methodist Church	Alane Davis	770-748-2203	alanedvs@yahoo.com	<i>Alane Davis</i>	1-29-21
Stepping Stones	Carolyn Hightower	678-901-1285	steppinstonesday@bellsouth.net	<i>Kesley McLean</i>	1-29-2021
Tallatoona	Denitra Clark	770-748-2844	denitrac@tallatoona.cap.org	<i>Denitra Clark</i>	1/29/21
WorldView	Laura Kelley	770-748-5296	worldviewbccm@gmail.com	<i>Laura Kelley</i>	01/29/21
Linda's Daycare	Linda Fonseca	770-749-0351	lindafonseca@aol.com	<i>Linda Fonseca</i>	1-29-21