

What is a Community Collaborative?

A Community Collaborative is an *informed referral network* that is comprised of community partners working together to serve young children and their families. Relationships with community partners have proven to be the most effective practice in identifying children with special needs.

Child Find
Finding Children with Special Needs

Informed Referral Network *One Tapestry...Many Threads*

Community Partners May Include:

Advocates	Head Start/Early Head Start	Preschool Providers
Bilingual Services	Health Care Providers	Public, Private, and Home Schools
Child Care Providers	Health/Social Service Depts.	Public Libraries
Childcare Resource and Referral	Higher Education	Recreation Service Providers
County Agencies	Homeless Liaisons	Service Clubs
County Birth to 3 Programs	Home Visiting Programs	Shelters
Domestic Abuse Services	Law Enforcement	State Agencies
Faith Based Organizations	Local School Districts	Tribal Head Start
Families	Migrant Services	Tribal Service Providers
Family Resource Centers	Parents	Women, Infants, and Children
Guardians	Physicians/Doctors	Other



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Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening, and evaluation.

This is an informational handout for Local Education Agencies (LEA).

Why Child Find?

The purpose of Child Find for children ages birth to 21 is to ensure that children with disabilities have access to free, appropriate public education, including special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs, and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

All states must identify, locate, and evaluate all children who may have special needs.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all states to have policies and procedures in effect to ensure that all children, who are in need of early intervention or special education, receive services. All states must identify, locate, and evaluate all children with special needs including infants, toddlers, preschoolers, children in private, public or tribal schools, highly mobile, homeless, or migrant children, home schooled children and wards of the state.

Federal and State law require the following notices be placed in newspapers or other media:

Model Notice of Child Find Activity: Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information

Model Notice to Parents and Individuals Required to Make Referrals

Notices are available at: sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_childfind

In addition, LEA's shall do the following:

Establish written procedures for accepting and processing referrals

Document and date the receipt of each referral

Provide information and in-service opportunities to all of its licensed staff to familiarize them with the agency's referral procedures

At least annually, inform parents and persons required to make referrals about the LEA's referral and evaluation procedures

Within 15 business days of receiving a referral, send the child's parents a request for consent to evaluate or a notice that no additional data is necessary.

Timelines are available at:

dpi.wi.gov/files/sped/pdf/sa-eval-timeline-visual.pdf

dpi.wi.gov/files/sped/pdf/sa-iep-timeline-visual.pdf

What is the Purpose of Child Find Screening?

Screening is a continuous process to locate and identify children at risk. Screening utilizes multiple sources of information, including the administration of a standardized screening tool, to guide decisions about "next steps" to address individual children's needs.

Screening Is Designed To:

Educate families about typical child development and growth

Develop/Expand awareness of available community resources

Identify young children in need of further assessment



The critical nature of timely intervention cannot be overstated.

Screening Should Be:

Sensitive to the child's cultural background

Based upon multiple sources of information

Based on valid, reliable, and normative samples

Easily administered and cost effective