

Child Find

Finding Children with Disabilities

Presentation for Community

What Is Child Find ?

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities which may include screening, designed to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities who may be in need of early intervention programs or special education as soon as possible.



Screening for Child Find



- Identifies children who require further evaluation
- Brief & General
- Not intended to use for program placement or diagnosis

Why are Screenings so Important?

Prevalence of Children with Disabilities:

- Approximately 12–16% of children have disabilities
- Only 30% of children with disabilities are detected before school entrance

Earls & Shackelford, *Pediatrics*, 2006; Glascoe, *Pediatric Review*, 2000

Incidence of children identified as having a disability by age

0 – 3 Years



2.8%

3 – 5 Years



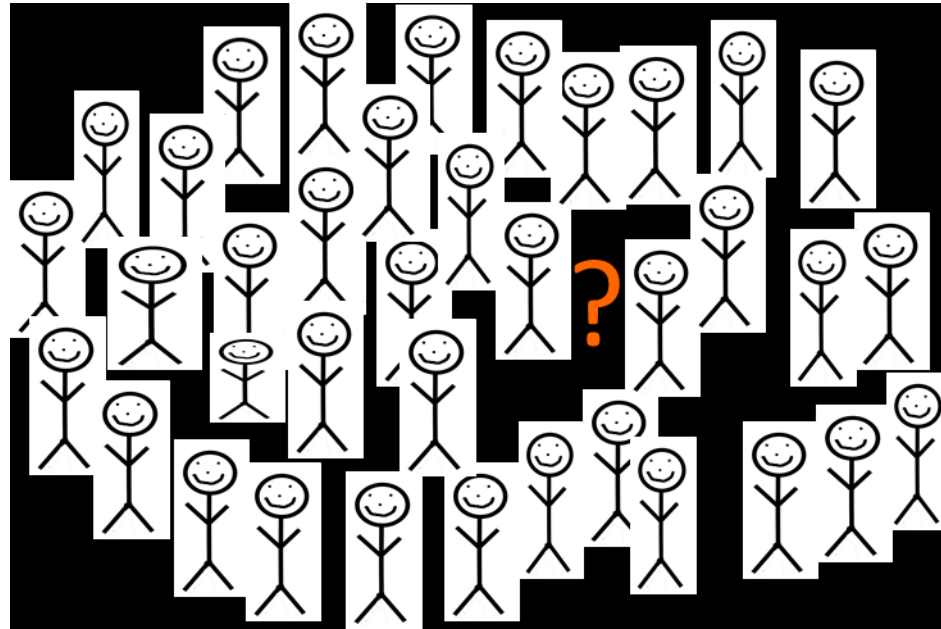
6.0%

6 – 21 Years



10.5%

Why Screen?



BECAUSE WE ARE MISSING
CHILDREN!

National Initiative
Birth to Five – Watch me Thrive!

Child Find is a Continuous Process



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Comprehensive Child Find System ensures that all children who are in need of early intervention or special education services are identified, located, and evaluated.



Lead Agencies in Wisconsin

Part C – Birth to 3

Department of Health Services

County Administrative Agency

Part B – 3 through 21

Department of Public Instruction

Local School Districts

Child Find Includes All Children

Infants, toddlers and preschoolers

Private, public or tribal school children

Highly mobile children

Homeless children

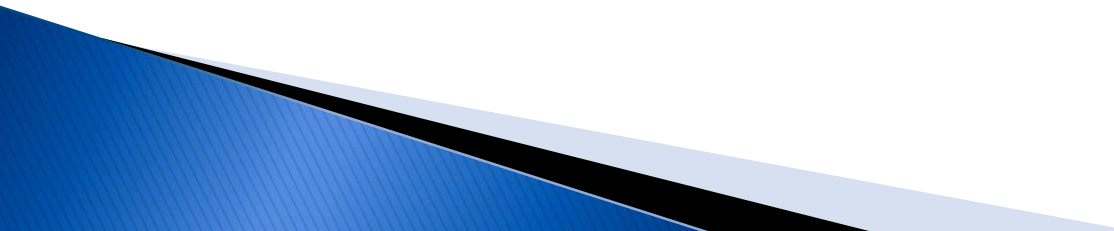
Home Schooled Children

Migrant children


Wards of the state



Past Practices

1. Children were screened to determine readiness for kindergarten
 2. Locally developed screening tools were used
 3. Children were screened at “stations” and usually separated from parents
 4. Parents had limited involvement in screening
 5. Child Development Days were held
- 

Current Practices

1. All children screened as early as possible
 2. Screening instruments used are valid, reliable and have normative samples
 3. Child Find is a continuous process rather than a single event
 4. Parents recognized as experts on their children's development
 5. Community resources are shared with families of young children
- 

What is an Informed Referral Network?

A coordinated effort by community partners to:



Identify

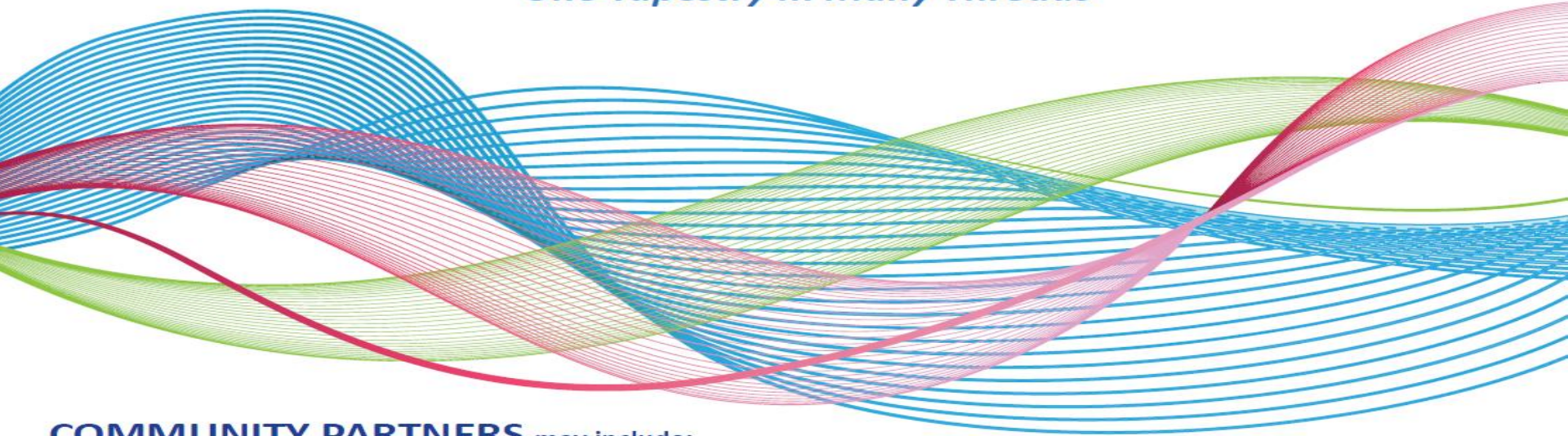
Locate

Evaluate

all children with a disability

Informed Referral Network

One Tapestry ... Many Threads



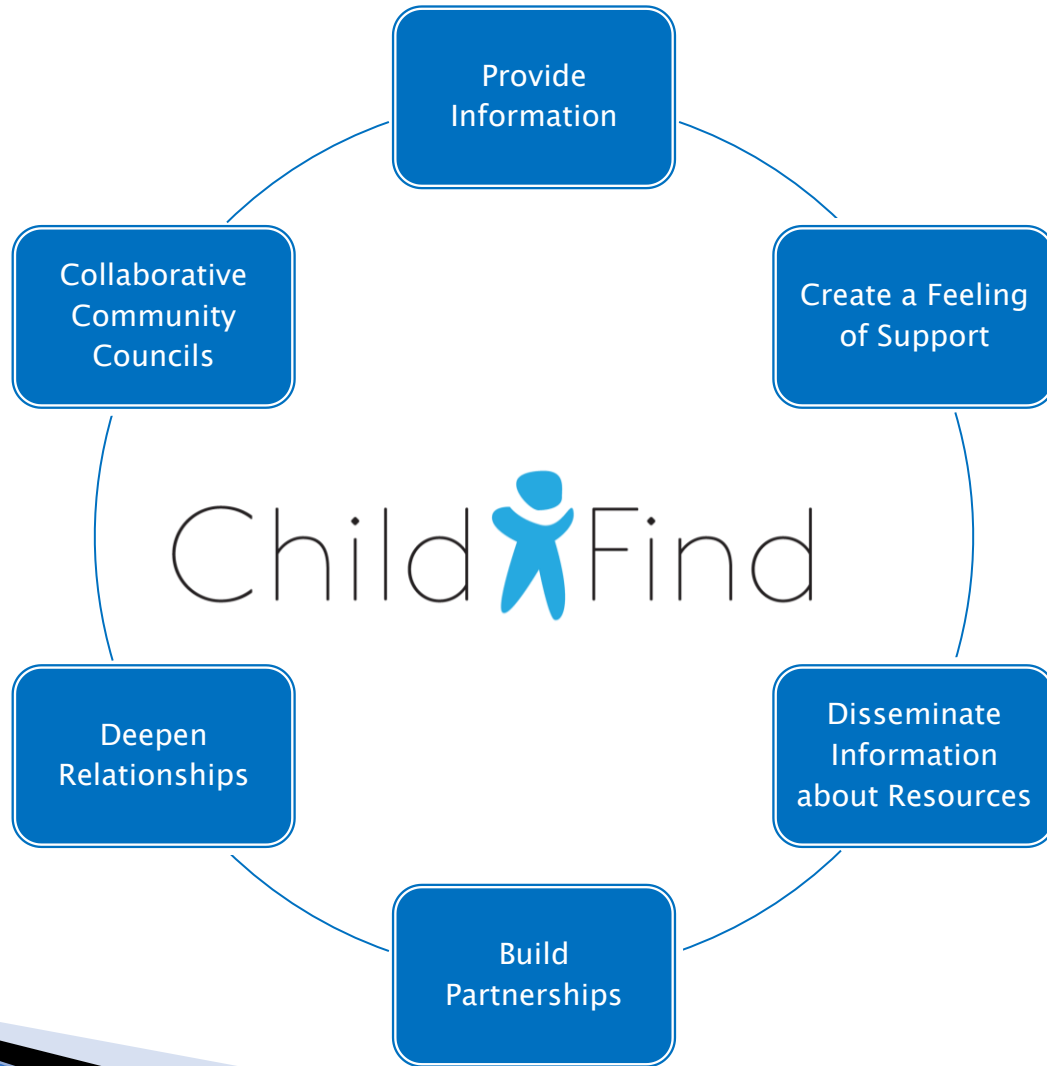
COMMUNITY PARTNERS may include:

Advocates
Bilingual Services
Child Care Providers
Childcare Resource and Referral
County Agencies
County Birth to 3 Programs
Domestic Abuse Services
Faith Based Organizations
Families
Family Resource Centers
Guardians

Head Start/Early Head Start
Health Care Providers
Health/Social Service Departments
Higher Education
Homeless Liaisons
Home Visiting Programs
Law Enforcement
Local School Districts
Migrant Services
Parents
Physicians/Doctors

Preschool Providers
Public, Private, and Home Schools
Public Libraries
Recreation Service Providers
Service Clubs
Shelters
State Agencies
Tribal Head Start
Tribal Service Providers
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
Other

Benefits of an Informed Referral Network



Research

Making connections with community partners has proven to be the most effective practice in identifying young children with special needs.

Christenson and Sheridan (2007)



Public Awareness

Child Find brochures placed in your community

District/Community Websites/Billboards

Public Service Announcements

- Direct mailings/emails
- Websites/facebook/twitter
- News media



Types of Screening

Newborn

Blood Levels

Vision/Hearing

Developmental/Behavioral

Autism

Social/Emotional

Learning and Development

Universal Screening for Instruction (PreK–12)



Screening is Designed To

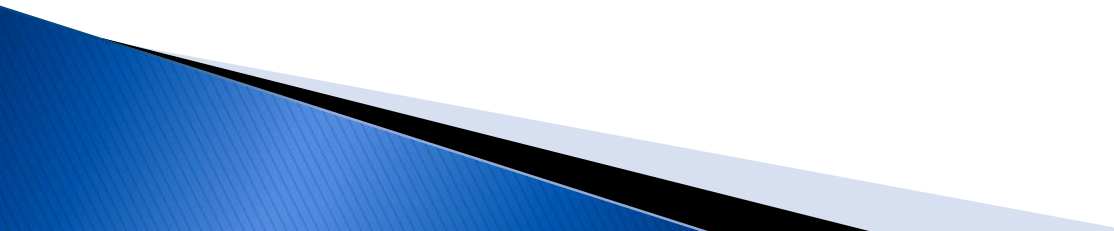
Educate families about typical child development

Develop/Expand awareness of community resources for young children and their families

Identify young children in need of further evaluation



Screening Activities Should Include

- Parents and/or care giver involvement
 - Sensitivity to the child's cultural background/primary language
 - Results reviewed by trained personnel and share with parents
- 

Screening Instrument Considerations

- Age appropriate
- Easily administered
- Cost effective
- Based on valid, reliable and normative

Developmental Screeners

Some Examples:

Ages and Stages
Questionnaire
(ASQ-3)



Ages & Stages Questionnaires®,
Third Edition (ASQ-3)

Ages & Stages Questionnaires®:
Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE)

Parents' Evaluation of
Developmental Status
(PEDS)



Where and When Could Child Find Screenings Occur?

Where:

Child Care Settings

Family Resource Centers

Head Start

Home

Libraries

Medical Settings

Schools

When:

Anytime there is a request for a screening

Monthly, quarterly, yearly

In combination with other school events (4K/5K registration)

In combination with other community events

Suspect a Disability?

Next steps would include:

Referral

Evaluation/Assessment

Determination of a Disability and a need for Special Education

In Summary

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities which include screening, designed to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who may be in need of early intervention programs or special education as soon possible.



Group Discussion Questions

Who are the partners in your Informed Referral Network?

How will we further build relationships with community partners?

Are all the partners in our community who touch the lives of young children and their families represented?

Questions



Child Find Resources



Collaborating Partners

<http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/child-find-screening-about.php>

Wisconsin Birth to Three Program

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm>

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/early-childhood/child-find>



Children

“We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer ‘Tomorrow’, his name is Today”

Gabriela Mistral 1889–1957