


What if I am concerned about my young child's development?

Call 740-349-1629 if you have questions or to arrange a time for a free developmental screening of your young child. There is no cost for the screening and no obligation that you enroll your child. The developmental screening will include a check of your child's hearing and vision. The screening will help provide information about your child's strengths and needs.

What if I suspect my child may have a disability and he/she is not yet in Kindergarten?

Child Find is the process of identifying, locating, and evaluating children suspected of having a disability and who may be in need of special education and related services. The school district provides special education services to any child who qualifies as having a disability according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Operating Standards for Ohio's Schools Serving Children with Disabilities.

 **If you suspect your child, aged 2 ½ to 5, may have a disability, please contact Davelyn Ross, Director of the Evaluation and Early Education Department of the Licking County Educational Service Center at (740) 349-1629 or dmross@laca.org. You can also contact your local school district's special education coordinator for more information.**

All schools are responsible for locating all children birth through 21 years of age with a suspected disability. The Evaluation and Early Education Department of the Licking County Educational Service Center (Flying Colors Public Preschool) is the *first point of contact* for information, screening and evaluation of children age two and a half to five years. (740-349-1629)

The Evaluation and Early Education Department works with several county agencies to identify and locate children with suspected disabilities. These agencies include the Help Me Grow Program – Children and Family First Council, Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, LEADS Head Start, and Pathways of Licking County. In addition, we work with preschools, and day-care centers to identify children who are suspected of having a disability.

What will happen next?

After receiving a referral for a suspected disability from a parent, agency, or school personnel, a team of qualified professionals reviews all available information, including input from the parents and interventions implemented, to determine if a child who is having academic, social/behavioral, communication, or health problems is suspected of having a disability. If the child is determined to have a suspected disability, we will evaluate him/her at no cost to the parent within 90 days.

Children who are identified as having a disability are eligible to receive special education and/or related services. An **Individualized Educational Program** will be developed by a team of individuals, including the parent(s), a special education teacher, a school district representative, other individuals who have knowledge of the child, and the child, as appropriate. The IEP will identify what type of special education services the child will receive and where those services will be provided.

While we provide information and developmental screenings to any child, we provide an educational evaluation, educational plans and therapies on behalf of the following districts:

- Granville Exempted Village
- Heath City Schools
- Johnstown-Monroe Local
- Licking Heights Local
- Licking Valley Local
- North Fork Local
- Northridge Local
- Southwest Licking Local