

What is Preschool Special Education?

Preschool Special Education is a system consisting of school districts, municipalities, approved providers, and parents. Evaluations and specially-designed instruction are provided to eligible children with a disability that affects their learning. Funding for the programs and services is provided by municipalities and the state at no cost to families.

What does that mean?

CPSE: Committee on Preschool Special Education
PWD: Preschooler with a Disability
OT: Occupational Therapy
PT: Physical Therapy
CNS: Counseling
SEIT: Special Education Itinerant Teacher
SLT: Speech and Language Therapy
SC: Special Class



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Preschool Special Education



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Unatego Central School District

How can I get my child help?

If your preschool-age child (3-5 years old) has delays in development such as difficulty talking, moving around, thinking, or learning, you can contact Special Programs to request an evaluation for your child.

You will be given a list of approved agencies that can evaluate your child in areas of difficulty. You will be asked to choose one of the evaluators, and sign a consent form giving permission for your child to be tested.

If your child received early intervention services as an infant or toddler, your service coordinator will assist you with making the transition to CPSE.

What is the evaluation process like?

Once parental consent is obtained, a “multi-disciplinary evaluation” will be scheduled.

Depending on the specific concerns about the child, this may include several different evaluations. These may not all happen on the same day.

All preschool evaluations include an observation of the child, a physical examination (with your child’s doctor), a social history interview, and a psychological evaluation. Some children will also meet with a speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, or physical therapist.

It is important that you try your best to go to all the evaluation appointments. If you miss an appointment it will slow down the process significantly.

What is a Psychological Evaluation?

A school psychologist will meet with you and your child for one to two hours. During this time the psychologist will talk with you and “work” with your child. But don’t worry, this will feel like fun games to your child! Just tell them to do their best and have fun.

The psychologist will be measuring your child’s ability to learn, acquired knowledge about the world, and any emotional or behavioral factors that may contribute to difficulties.

What is an IEP?

An IEP is an Individualized Education Plan. If your child qualifies for preschool special education services, they will get an IEP.

This written document is like a map that lays out the special education instruction, supports, and other services your child needs.

In the IEP it will list all the things your child needs. This could simply include a related service such as speech therapy. Or, your child’s IEP could include several programs and services to provide more comprehensive support. The plan is individualized to what each child needs.

How much will it cost?

The evaluation will not cost you anything!

If your child is eligible for special education programs or related services, those services and transportation will be provided free of charge as well.

Special Education Programs-

Special Education Itinerant Teacher - a special education teacher works with a child in a setting recommended by the CPSE.

Special Class in an Integrated Setting - a class with preschool students with and without disabilities.

Special Class- a class with only children with disabilities.

Related Services-

- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Assistive technology
- Parent education
- Counseling

