

**Sierra County Office of Education**  
**P.O. Box 152 305 South Lincoln Street**  
**Sierraville, CA 96126**  
**Phone: (530) 994-1044 Fax: (530) 994-1045**

### **What is Child Find?**

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth ages 3 to 22 years of age who are suspected of having or have a diagnosed disability or developmental delay, in order to provide appropriate special education services under the law.

### **When Should a Child Be Referred to Child Find?**

A child should be referred when:

- A health or a medical disorder interferes with development and/or learning
- A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing
- A child appears to have social, emotional or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn or interact with others
- A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually impair or impede the child's ability to learn.
- A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like others that are his/her age.
- A child's speech is not understood by family or friends.

The disability categories are:

- Autism
- Hearing Impairment including Deafness
- Deaf-Blindness
- Emotionally Disturbed
- Language/Speech Disorder
- Mental Retardation
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

### **How Can Children Be Referred?**

A referral may be made by a parent or by any person concerned about a child. Parent involvement and agreement is obtained prior to any further action. Information is confidential and the privacy of children and parents is protected.

**Early Intervention:** *If the child is 3 to 5 years of age, contact the Sierra County Office of Education at 530-994-1045*

### **What is Special Education?**

Special education is instruction designed to meet the unique learning strengths and needs of the individual student with disabilities from ages 3 to 22 years of age. It is defined as:

- Specifically designed instruction
- at no cost to the parents
- to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

Special education services may be provided in a variety of educational settings, but are required by IDEA to be delivered in the least restrictive environment.

### **Who is Eligible for Services?**

A student must be evaluated and identified as having a disability to be eligible for special education programs and related services. The degree of the student's impairment must require special education.