

Child Find – A BRIEF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

WHAT IS CHILD FIND?

The Child Find program is designed to assist parents and schools with the identification of a young child who may have a disability. Child Find is a service within the [Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System \(FDLRS\)](#) and has offices that serve every county in Florida. Child Find is a free service. As a parent, you and your children are under no obligation to accept and receive any of the services provided.





Your Child's Own Journey Through the Child Find Process (Step-by-Step)

1

To begin the process, you may contact FDLRS directly to find a Child Find Specialist. Each county has its own office and contact information. Please use the link below to view the FDLRS Child Find Contact list to find the name of a Specialist near you <https://www.fdlrs.org/find-a-center>

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A Child Find Specialist within your district or a member of the Child Find support staff will then contact you to schedule a meeting for your child to undergo a Child Find Development Screening.

3

During a Child Find Development Screening, the Child Find Specialist might ask you questions or ask the child to complete tasks that will help them to understand their needs. These questions will might look at vision, language, hearing, behavior, speech, growth, cognitive and motor skills. The goal of the screening is to determine if your child may have specific disabilities or delays.

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If the screening indicates that your child does NOT require further testing, referrals to other community agencies and child care options will be provided.

5

If the screening identifies that your child might have a developmental delay or disability, your child may then be scheduled for further evaluation. Additional testing is necessary to determine your child's special education needs. Assessment would need to be conducted with both you and your child present. The results would then be later shared with you.

6

After the evaluation, you the parent would attend a meeting that is referred to as a staffing. The meeting serves as an opportunity to identify supports and procedures that help ensure that your child progresses academically and socially.

7

There are THREE possible outcomes that can occur during the staffing meeting:

- (A) If it's determined that your child is NOT eligible to receive Child Find's education services, a referral to community agencies and child care options will provided.
- (B) If it's determined that your child requires some accommodations, a 504 Plan will be developed that describes the changes that a school needs to make to help your child to be successful.
- (C) If it's determined that your child is eligible to receive specialized education services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed that outlines the changes in instruction, supports and services that will help your child to be successful in school.

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The process concludes with you enrolling your child at the school with the necessary supports that were determined in the Child Find process.

