

Early childhood special education (ECSE)

Beginning at age 3, children with disabilities may be eligible for the Early Childhood Special Education program (ECSE).

- ECSE is a free program offered through your local school district.
- ECSE helps prepare your child for school by working on educational goals.



Not all children are eligible or will qualify for these special education services.

Getting a young child ready for school

The ECSE program can take place in a public school classroom, Head Start, or even at home.

During class, children receive extra time, help, and encouragement from a special education preschool teacher. This nurturing environment will help give your young child with disabilities extra help in their education. Your child may also be eligible for additional support such as:

- Transportation to and from school.
- Speech, physical, and occupational therapy.

Before starting ECSE, your local school district will need to evaluate your child.

If you are interested in learning more about ECSE, call your school district's Child Find department. Here is the phone number for your local Child Find department:

School district: _____

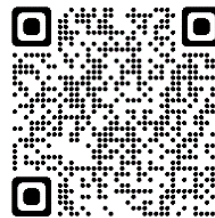
Phone number: _____

Help Me Grow

If you are in North Texas, Help Me Grow is a resource that has Family Navigators. They can help you understand getting special education services and enrolling your child in school.

Visit helpmegrownorthtexas.org or call 1-844-NTX-KIDS.

You can find additional information about ECSE and other services at navigatelifetexas.org.



Not already receiving ECI services

Parent contacts school district on their own.

Parents schedule screening or referral meeting.

- Decide areas of concern.
- Sign consent for evaluation.

Multidisciplinary team completes evaluation.

Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee Meeting

- Determine eligibility.
- Develop Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Obtain parental consent for initial placement.

Services begin as soon as plan is in place.

Already receiving ECI services

ECI talks to family about transition to school before 3rd birthday. ECI contacts school district.

Transition meeting is scheduled.

- Decide areas of concern.
- Sign consent for evaluation.

Multidisciplinary team completes evaluation.

Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee Meeting

- Determine eligibility.
- Develop Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Obtain parental consent for initial placement.

Services begin on 3rd birthday or as soon as plan is in place.

N.E.S.T. Center

For contacts and locations visit:

<https://www.cookchildrens.org/services/nest-developmental-follow-up-center/contacts/>



These instructions are only general guidelines. Your healthcare provider may give you special instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please call your healthcare provider.