

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION SYSTEM

THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

IDEA is a U.S. law that requires free appropriate public education (FAPE), special education and related services are made available to eligible children with disabilities from birth through age 21. The two parts of IDEA that focus on services for children are Parts B and C.

Part C is the early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and serves children from birth until age 3. Child Development Watch (CDW) is the Part C early intervention program in Delaware.

Part B is the special education and related services program for children with disabilities and serves children ages 3 through 21.* Delaware school districts are responsible for Part B services.

*In Delaware, autism is a **birth mandate** classification. This means if you have concerns for autism in your child under the age of 3, you can contact **both CDW and your local school district** for evaluations for service eligibility.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT WATCH

- Provides evaluations and appropriate early intervention supports and services to children under 3 years with suspected or diagnosed developmental delays and disabilities.
- A team of evaluators will assess your child in all areas of development. You are an important member of the team. The team will determine eligibility for CDW early intervention services.
- To receive additional information about services, contact your local CDW clinic.
New Castle Co.: (302) 283-7140.
Kent or Sussex Co.: (302) 424-7300.

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Provides evaluations to determine if your child is eligible for special education and related services.
- A school-based team will evaluate your child. You are an important member of the team. The team will determine eligibility for an educational classification of autism.
- To refer your child for an evaluation, contact your local school district's Child Find office here:
<https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3665>.

DO I NEED TO CONNECT WITH BOTH OF THESE AGENCIES?

When you or someone who knows your child well (e.g. child care, home visitor, doctor) have concerns about autism for your child under 3, you have the option to have evaluations completed by both CDW and your school district. It is a good idea to connect with both and they will work together to make the process easier. It is important to ask questions about your program options and choose based on your child and family's needs. There is more information about evaluations, services and questions to ask on Early Childhood Resources #4 and #5.

Additional autism resource guides at:

delawareautismnetwork.org