

## Preschool Age 3-5

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Preschool-age children with disabilities are eligible to receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Parents and caregivers can make a referral for an evaluation for eligibility for preschool services if:

- You think your child has a disability
- Your child has received Early Intervention services
- You think your child will need additional services when he or she turns 3

Any child who is found eligible for special preschool services must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) set up by their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**Make sure the referral for an evaluation for preschool services is made at least 45 working days before your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, or as early as possible.**

**If your child is enrolled in Early Intervention, a referral to your local school (local education agency) should occur when your child is 2 ½ years old.**

Contact the school district in your city or town to learn more about Early Learning Services for children age 3-5. Ask to speak with the Administrator of Special Education at your school district. You may also contact the [Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care](#) at 617-988-6600.

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This information is provided by the [Division of Perinatal, Early Childhood, and Special Health Needs](#) within the [Department of Public Health](#).