**Child Find Project Echols County Schools**

**What is Child Find?**
The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth, birth to age 21, who are suspected of, or have a disability or developmental delay.  Echols County Schools serves children ages 3 through 21 with identified special education needs.

**How can children be referred?**
A referral may be made by anyone who has a concern about a child’s development.  All referrals are considered confidential.  The parent retains the right to refuse services.  Children may be referred by any of the following:

* Parents/legal guardians/foster parents
* Other family members
* Physicians/health care providers
* Preschool programs
* School system personnel
* Community agencies
* Private school personnel
* Others who are concerned about a child’s development

**When should a child be referred for Child Find purposes?**
A child should be referred when:

* A health or medical disorder interferes with development 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.
* A child has 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 understandable to family or friends.
* A child has difficulty with reading, math, or other school subjects.

**What is Special Education and who is eligible for services?**
Special Education is instruction designed to meet the unique learning strengths and needs of individual students with disabilities from birth through age 21.  A child must be evaluated and identified as having a disability to be eligible for Special Education and/or related services. Services are provided for students in all disability areas recognized by the State of Georgia.

**Where can I find out more about Child Find?**
For a preschool aged child, with a chronological age of 3 through 5, who has or may have a developmental disability, please contact Shannon King at the Special Education Office at 229-559-5437

Parents of students kindergarten through 12th-grade, who suspect their child may have a disability, should contact the teacher, principal or the Special Education Department.

Contact Information:

Dave Rosser, Coordinator

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