

# Child Health Notes

Promoting early identification and partnerships between families, primary health care providers & the community.

Distributed by the Lewis County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) and Parent to Parent.  
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## COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### FOR CHILDREN OVER 3 YEARS OLD

#### THE ROLE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Primary health care providers have a role assisting families of children with disabling conditions and chronic diseases to navigate special education and educationally related services within the public school system. Your communication and collaboration with school personnel can help determine 1) if a child is eligible for special education services, and 2) the exact nature of a child's special needs within the school setting. This newsletter serves as an introductory guide to some of the basic provisions of educationally

#### IDEA 2004: A Federally Legislated Safeguard for Children with Special Needs

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA PL-101-476) serves as a federal bill of rights to assure that children with disabilities and their parents have the same legal right to free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment as children without disabilities. Public schools have the capacity to provide:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| - specially designed instruction                                       | - physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech & language therapy |
| - psychological services   | - vision and hearing consultation                                   |
| - mobility services  | - counseling  |
| - administration of medication or other medically necessary procedures |   |

As a medical home provider caring for children with special needs you will be called upon to collaborate with all members of a child's care management team, including school personnel.

#### ROLE OF THE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

- Provide **screening, surveillance and diagnosis** at each well-child visit to identify whether a child may need educationally related services under IDEA.
- Provide a **diagnosis**, when available, to support justification for educationally related services. At 9 years of age if school records indicate only a diagnosis of Developmental Disability, the primary care provider may be asked to provide a more specific diagnosis for the child's handicapping condition to assure justification for related services.
- Facilitate a **referral** to the local public school system for a comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment to determine eligibility for educationally related services.
- Serve as an **advocate** for the child and family. Parents of children with special needs often need an advocate who can objectively listen to and discuss the education and related service program (IEP)
- Offer **collaborative communication** with school personnel. Communication with school personnel requires parental permission. (*link to consent form*). To support communication: review the IEP and/or school-related plans, offer input for the IEP when requested, encourage families to update you on the school plan at well-child visits.
- **Maintain updated records** to include whether a child is receiving special services at school, the name and contact the school, and for children with complex medical conditions the name and contact for the school nurse.

#### HOW DO I REQUEST A SCHOOL EVALUATION?

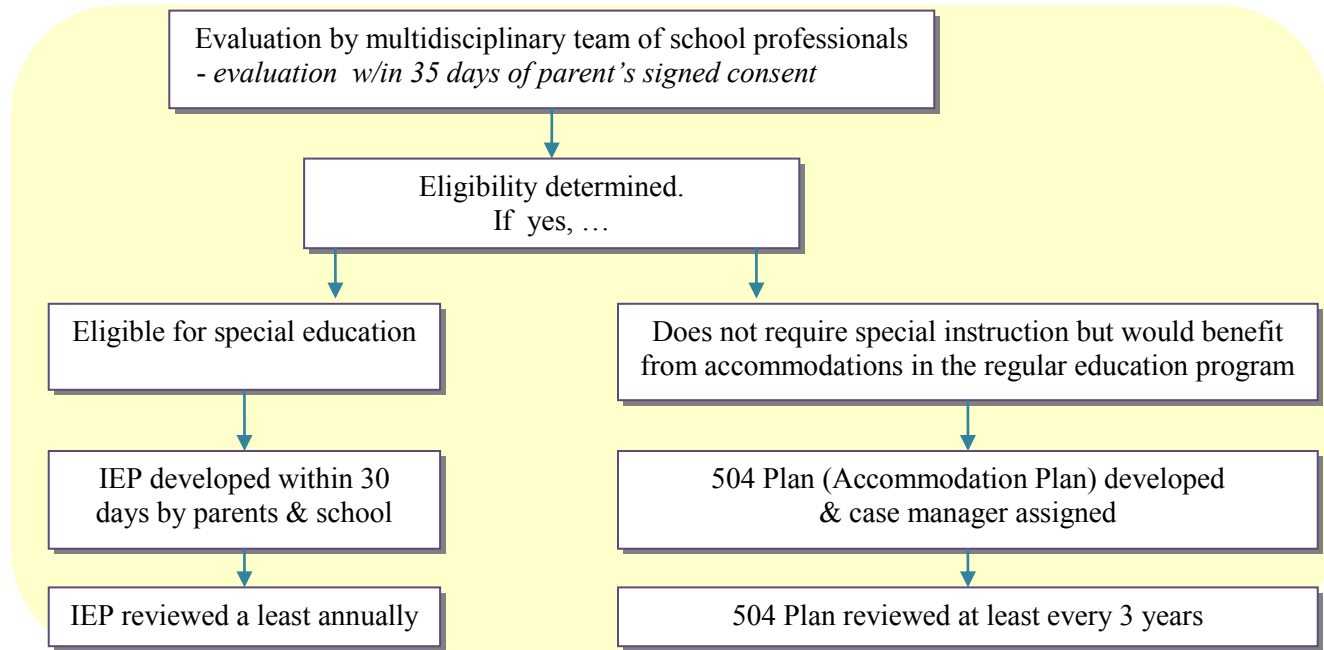
In your community contact:

With in the Centralia/Chehalis School districts contact the School District.

Out side Centralia Chehalis School District contact Lewis County Special Education Coop 748-3384 or your local elementary school.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL?

Upon written referral of a child to the local school system, school professionals determine the need for further evaluation. If an evaluation is indicated the following steps take place.



### Special Education Resources:

<b>For Families:</b>	<p><b>Washington Parents are Vital in Education (PAVE)</b> <i>Provides parents with advocacy, training, and information on their children's educational rights</i></p> <p><b>Parent to Parent Support Programs</b> <i>Provides peer support for parents</i></p> <p><b>Starting Point Resource Guide (WA)</b> <i>Search for "Schools" under Resource Category</i></p>	<p>253) 565-2266 (Voice or TTY) 1-800-572-7368 (Voice or TTY) <a href="http://www.washingtonpave.org/links/walinks.asp">www.washingtonpave.org/links/walinks.asp</a></p> <p>(425) 641-7504 1-800-821-5927 <a href="mailto:statep2p@earthlink.net">statep2p@earthlink.net</a> <a href="http://www.aracwa.org/contact_p2p.htm">http://www.aracwa.org/contact_p2p.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.cshcn.org/resources/guides.cfm?intro=yes">http://www.cshcn.org/resources/guides.cfm?intro=yes</a></p>
<b>For Physicians</b>	<p><b>Washington State Office of Special Education</b> <i>Information about special education programs in Washington State</i></p> <p><b>Lewis County ESD (Educational Service District)</b></p> <p><b>AAP Policy Statement (July 1999, reaffirmed May 2006):</b> <i>Pediatrician's Role in Development and Implementation of an Individual Education (IEP) and/or an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)</i></p>	<p>(360) 725-6075 (360) 664-3631 (TTY) <a href="http://www.k12.wa.us/specialed">http://www.k12.wa.us/specialed</a></p> <p><a href="http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;104/1/124">http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;104/1/124</a></p>
<b>National Resources</b>	<p><b>National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)</b> <i>Array of resources for families and professionals on special education and IEPs</i></p>	<p><a href="http://old.nichcy.org/resources/IEP1.asp">http://old.nichcy.org/resources/IEP1.asp</a></p>

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