

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.

Contributors: UW Center on Human Development and Disability and Washington State Department of Health



Believe it or not, there is less than 3 months until school is out! At this time of year, Lewis County Parent to Parent provides transition information to families. Please read our March April newsletter at www.reliableenterprises.org/newsletters.html



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Infant Toddler
Early Intervention
Program (ITEIP)



SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN OVER 3 YEARS OLD

THE ROLE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Your child's doctor or primary health care provider (PCP) can have a role assisting your family to navigate special education and educationally related services within the public school system. The PCPs communication and collaboration with the school can help determine if a your child is eligible for special education services, and his or her special needs within the school setting.

This information serves as an introduction to some of the basic provisions of educationally related services for children 3 -21 years of age.

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

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 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. Your child's PCP may be called upon to collaborate with all members of a child's care management team, which includes the parent or parents and 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.

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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. Encourage families to update you on the school plan at well-child visits.

Maintain and provide 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.



Keys to Special Education Terminology

IEP: Individual Education Program –An individually tailored student program detailing the special education services and/or related services necessary to maximize a child’s education and learning.

504 Plan – An individualized plan for children with disabilities or chronic health conditions who do not need special instruction; can function in a regular classroom with some degree of accommodations provided. This may include:

Related Services – Services in addition to education that assist a child with a disability to fully participate in the education program, this includes physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology, psychology, social work and counseling, and mobility services to name a few.

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Local: Lewis County Department of Health (360) 740-1223
TOLL FREE: (800) 562-6130 ext. 1223
Lewis County CSHCN Nurse (360) 740-1257
Lewis County Parent to Parent (360) 736-9558 or (360) 269-2269

Regional:

Washington State Medical Home Website www.medicalhome.org
Washington State Parent to Parent Program statep2p@earthlink.net
Washington State office of Special Education <http://www.k12.wa.us/specialed>
American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org

We have phone numbers for these resources and many more resources on Children’s health. Please call us.

LOCAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT:

For children under age three: In any Lewis County School District In Centralia or Chehalis School District only	Contact: In-tot Developmental Center 748-4359 or 1-888-548-4359 Growing Together 748-2277 or Student Support 807-7245
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For children age three and older: Within Centralia Chehalis School Districts Outside Centralia Chehalis School Districts	Contact: Local school district Lewis County Special Education Coop 748-3384 or local elementary school
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