



Contact Information at SPS

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Early Childhood Special Education



**SEATTLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

*"Every student achieving,
everyone accountable."*

Early Childhood Special Education

Seattle Public Schools offers special education services for children age 3-5 determined eligible with a disability that impacts educational progress and who are in need of specially designed instruction. Services are provided in communication, motor, adaptive, social and/or cognitive development. Specialized services are available to children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing, children with autism and children with assistive technology or nursing needs.

If you are concerned for a preschooler with a possible delay in development, please call our Child Find Screening and Referral line (206-252-0805).

For questions regarding enrolling your typically developing preschooler in our program, please contact the preschool in your neighborhood.

Developmental Preschool Locations:

NE: Thornton Creek, Sand Point, Sacajawea, Green Lake (medically fragile program)

NW: Broadview Thomson, Viewlands, N Beach, Greenwood

Central: Bailey Gatzert, Lowell (includes medically fragile program), Madrona, Thurgood Marshall

SE: Dunlap, Early Learning Center, South Shore

SW: Fairmount Park, Lafayette, STEM K-5 @ Boren. W Seattle Elementary

Services & Programs

Our programs are designed to offer a continuum of services in an effort to meet a variety of student developmental needs. Developmental Preschools run morning and afternoon sessions Monday through Thursday for 2 ½ hours. The following continuum of service is offered.

❖ Therapy Services Only

Individual or small group services are provided to eligible children who can make progress in one or two developmental areas when provided with 1-2 therapy sessions per week. The sessions occur at local schools.

❖ Itinerant Services

Services provided to students enrolled in a childcare/preschool located within a Seattle school or Head Start who can make progress in that environment with the support of a Special Education Teacher working within that classroom context 1-2 times per week.

❖ Developmental Preschool

Programs provide high quality early childhood environments where activities are designed by Special Education Teachers and Therapists to meet the individual developmental needs of students. Typically developing preschoolers from the community are included in many of the programs.

❖ Extended Day Services

Students with autism who are enrolled in a preschool program may be considered by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team for more intensive services in addition to their preschool day in order to accomplish specific goals in their IEP.

❖ Social Skills Group

This program focuses on providing direct teaching in the area of social skill development. It is a small group setting and provided once per week at the Early Learning Center

Birth-to-Three Transition

For families living within district boundaries and receiving early intervention services, transition is a time to gather information and make decisions about referring their child for evaluation. If eligible, families have the option to have their child receive special education services from Seattle Public Schools. The process includes the following:

Transition Meeting takes place with family, agency staff and district staff at least 90 days prior to the child's third birthday. At the meeting a decision will be made to determine if concerns in development continue and a referral for consideration of special education evaluation is requested. A Transition Plan is also developed. Available information about the child's development is gathered.

Evaluation is done to determine eligibility/ineligibility in the areas of communication, motor development, self-help, social skills and cognitive development.

Individual Education Program is developed by parents and district staff no later than a child's third birthday and reflects the services the child requires.

Services begin for eligible children by their third birthday.

