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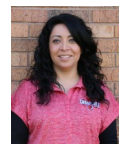
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South Sioux City Community Schools

*Student Learning – Student Success-
Students Prepared for Life*

FREE

Early Childhood Special
Education Services are
provided to children ages
birth to 5 years of age who
qualify in the areas of
overall development,
speech/language, gross
and fine motor, hearing,
vision and health.

Early Childhood Office
820 East 29th Street
South Sioux City, NE 68776
402-412-2884
Dakota County Residents

A referral can be made by a parent, caregiver, family member, or physician.

Children birth through age 5 are eligible for services if a child experiences developmental delay or is found to have a disability in one of the following categories:

- autism
- deaf-blindness
- emotional disturbance
- hearing impairment
- intellectual disability
- multiple impairments
- orthopedic impairment
- other health impairment
- specific learning disability
- speech-language impairment
- traumatic brain injury
- visual impairment including blindness.

Children birth through age 2 are also eligible for services if they have been subjected to child abuse, neglect, and/or directly affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure.

Eligible children receive support from a Primary Service Provider (PSP). This PSP serves as a liaison between the family and a team of specialists including:

- occupational therapist
- physical therapist
- special education early childhood teacher
- speech-language pathologist.

The PSP receives coaching from other team members and uses coaching with parents/providers/teachers to build and strengthen capacity, improve existing abilities, and develop new skills.

This approach uses ordinary life situations (dressing, eating meals, brushing teeth, riding in a car, etc.) and the opportunities for children to learn within those situations. Thus, services are child-initiated. When a child is involved with something or someone that he/she finds interesting, research shows that the child will engage for longer periods of time, thus yielding positive benefits related to child learning.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Of 2004 (IDEA 04) requires that children birth through age 21 with disabilities receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) which means having access to the learning opportunities non-disabled children have.

Services provided under IDEA 04 are funded by public schools at no cost to the parent.

