

# Child Find Overview

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Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state to develop a Child Find component for the Infant Toddler Program. Child Find is an active system designed to identify, locate, monitor, and screen infants and toddlers who are at-risk for Developmental Delays. Children who are identified as needing evaluations are referred to the Infant Toddler Program to determine if early intervention services are needed.

The system is coordinated with all major efforts of other state agencies including:

- Special Education, State Department of Education.
- Maternal and Child Health Programs, Division of Health.
- Medicaid's Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program.
- Idaho Developmental Disabilities Program.
- Head Start Programs, including Tribal Head Start, and Migrant & Seasonal Head Start.
- Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind Outreach Program.
- Idaho Sound Beginnings, Early Hearing Detection & Intervention.
- State Disability Determination Services, Dept. of Commerce and Labor.
- Tribal and tribal organizations that receive money under Part C.
- Other tribes and tribal organizations, as appropriate.

The Idaho State Department of Education is the lead agency for early childhood special education services for children age's three (3) to five (5) with disabilities under Part B of IDEA. The law requires the lead agency to carry out Child Find activities for children ages three (3) to twenty-one (21). As lead agency for Part C of IDEA, the Department of Health and Welfare has the primary responsibility for Child Find activities for children ages birth to three (3). Birth to three (3) Child Find activities are ongoing and whenever possible, coordinated with local school districts during their scheduled Child Find activities.

The Infant Toddler Program identifies designated regional personnel to coordinate Child Find activities in each area of the state. Each regional program and the Regional Early Childhood Committee (RECC) has a system to locate, identify, screen, monitor, and refer infants and toddlers who may be in need of early intervention services.

## Child Find Terms and Definitions

Terms related to the Child Find system are defined in the following paragraphs.

**Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) and Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ-SE) –** Questionnaires used through Developmental Milestones to monitor infant or toddler development. The questionnaires are sent at identified intervals to the parent/guardian to screen their child's growth and development.

ASQ-3 questionnaires are provided to parents of children between the ages of two through 36 months of age. Intervals are determined based on the needs of the child and are adjusted for prematurity for the first 24 months. The ASQ-SE questionnaires are distributed for completion at 12, and 30 months of age, but can be requested more frequently.

Parents and caregivers may access and complete the ASQ-3 and the ASQ-SE questionnaires by registering for Developmental Milestones by mail or by completing questionnaires online. To access questionnaires online, parents and caregivers are asked to visit [www.InfantToddler.Idaho.gov](http://www.InfantToddler.Idaho.gov) and follow the prompts in the Developmental Milestones section of the webpage. Spanish versions of both the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE are available by mail and online.

The Ages & Stages Questionnaires and the Ages & Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional were developed by Jane Squires, Diane Bricker, and LaWanda Potter at the University of Oregon. The questionnaires are available through Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co, PO Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21285-0624. More information is available at [www.agesandstages.com](http://www.agesandstages.com).

**At-Risk** – includes the following:

**Medical/Biological Risk** – Refers to children who do not have an identified disability or delay, but who have a history of prenatal, perinatal, or early developmental events and because of biological circumstances, such as a very low birth weight, prematurity, or genetic pre-disposition, have a higher than normal chance of developmental problems.

**Environmental Risk** – Refers to children who regardless of biological risk are vulnerable because of environmental conditions; they and their families are identified here, not in judgment of their family's life situation, but because early identification and support services can positively affect the child's development and family health.

For additional information see At-Risk Criteria for Monitoring.

**Child Find** – Several activities that can be accessed by the community. These include:

- Outreach and public awareness.
- Monitoring children at-risk for a Developmental Delay or those with a medical condition which may negatively impact the child's development.
- Developmental screenings.
- Referrals for multidisciplinary evaluations.
- Data collection and tracking.

**Developmental Milestones** – The monitoring component of child find that helps parents better understand and meet the developmental, social-emotional, and health and educational needs of their child.

**2-1-1 Idaho CareLine** (Idaho Infant Toddler Program's Central Directory) – A statewide, toll free telephone service established for providing information and referral for numerous service needs, including prenatal care, health services, child care, and early intervention services, in which callers are connected to appropriate resources serving their geographic area. Written information is available upon request. The 2-1-1 Idaho CareLine is available to the general public and can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588.

**Child Find Coordinator** – A qualified person designated to oversee the screening and developmental monitoring functions of Idaho Infant Toddler Child Find activities for all regions of the State of Idaho.

**Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)** – The M-CHAT is a questionnaire for screening toddlers between sixteen (16) and thirty (30) months of age, to assess risk for autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The M-CHAT is used by Developmental Milestones as a screener for all children at eighteen (18) and twenty-four (24) months of age. The M-CHAT is available in both English and Spanish language formats.

**Monitoring** – The periodic review of the developmental status of children who may be at-risk due to medical, environmental, or developmental issues. Typically monitoring is completed through use of ASQ-3s, ASQ-SEs, or M-CHAT developmental questionnaires.

**Screening** – Assessment of a child's development in the areas of physical development, cognitive, social/emotional, communication, and adaptive skills. Screenings provide a cost effective method for the accurate identification of infants and toddlers who may require further evaluations. Screenings are conducted by qualified personnel who have met the state personnel requirements to provide early intervention services.