

## **HOUSTON COUNTY PRESCHOOL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND CHILD FIND PROCEDURES**

- I) According to Georgia special education regulations Child Find procedures, local educational agencies are expected to locate, identify, and evaluate all children suspected of having a disability. This must be done via annual published notice in print or other media. The Houston County Child Find Department publishes annual notice regarding general Child Find information, its services, and contact information.
- II) When a child has been identified as potentially having a disability, the referring party completes a Houston County Child Find referral packet. This consists of the referral form, social and developmental history form, and other pertinent documentation.
- III) When the referral is received, a screening is conducted to ascertain the student's developmental levels in five areas of development: cognition, communication, socialization, adaptive skills, and motor skills. Analysis of the results of the screening leads to one of three possible outcomes.
  - a. No delays are noted in the screening and the referral is closed.
  - b. Some delays are noted in the screening and Child Find personnel devise strategies and interventions for use in remediating the weaknesses.
  - c. Significant delays are noted in the screening and further evaluation is sought.
- IV) Interventions for preschool-aged children may come from several sources including the school psychologist, speech-language pathologist, program specialist, special education teacher, etc. These interventions are monitored for effectiveness and data is collected. Procedures follow the Georgia Board of Education Pyramid of Interventions as well as Response to Intervention models.
- V) Evaluation for children found to have significant delays during screenings either occurs at the child's school or the child is brought to a central location for evaluation. Typically, a speech-language pathologist, school psychologist, program specialist, special education teacher, and general education teacher is present during the evaluation. However, evaluations at the student's school may not have all the aforementioned personnel present at the same time. Students found to have significant delays during the evaluation process are referred for special education evaluation. Students who do not have significant delays are referred back to the interventions phase of the Child Find procedure for continued monitoring as necessary.

- VI) From the point of special education referral, Child Find procedures mimic special education procedures for students of all ages. A meeting is arranged in which eligibility is determined and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is written based on the student's needs if the student is eligible for services.
  
- VII) Services for preschool special education in Houston County are provided through home-based instruction, community-based instruction, or in one of the special education pre-kindergarten classrooms. Depending on the severity of the delays, the service model is decided during the IEP meeting.