

Wondering About ...

# Early Childhood Special Education

Once children with delays or disabilities turn 3 years of age, their Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services are provided under Part C of IDEA. ECSE can occur many places as it supports the educational and developmental needs of 3-5 year old children with disabilities. The following sites will help you better understand ECSE.

## Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project (HEIP)

[www.heartland.edu/heip](http://www.heartland.edu/heip)

The Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project is designed to ensure early childhood professionals have the knowledge and skills required to support the diverse development and learning needs of young children and their families in high-quality, inclusive classroom communities. These resource pages provide a tool for teachers to use to support families faced with questions about early childhood.

**Policy advisory: The law on inclusive education.** CONNECT: The Center to Mobilize Early Childhood Knowledge. (2012).

<http://community.fpg.unc.edu/sites/community.fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/Handout/CONNECT-Handout%201-4.pdf>

This 4-page handout provides a general summary of the federal laws supporting the inclusion of children with disabilities with their non-disabled peers.

**Special Education Services for Preschoolers with Disabilities.** National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY).

<http://nichcy.org/schoolage/preschoolers>

This webpage provides specific information on the “what” and the “how” of special education services for preschoolers.

**When I'm 3, where will I be? A family transition workbook.** Illinois State Board of Education. (2007)

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents\\_pdfs/developmentalscreening.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/developmentalscreening.pdf)

This handbook helps parents work through the transition from early intervention (birth - age 3) services and into early childhood special education services.

**Especially for ... Families and Communities.** National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY).

<http://nichcy.org/families-community>

This NICHCY webpage provides numerous resources to help families of children with disabilities.

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