



## Helping All Children Succeed

*Do you have concerns about your child's development or progress in school?*

### What Is Child Find?

Child find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA '04) that requires states to *locate, identify, and evaluate* all children with disabilities, aged birth through 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services. This includes children who are highly mobile, such as migrant or homeless children, children suspected of having a disability even though they are advancing from grade to grade, private school students, and homeschool students. The Arizona initiative for child find is referred to as AZ FIND.

### Children Develop at Different Rates

Some children have more difficulty learning than others. They may have trouble achieving milestones in one or more of the following developmental or academic areas:

- Vision and Hearing
- Motor Control or Coordination
- Behavior or Social Skills
- Speech or Communication Skills
- Cognitive or Academic Skills

The earlier you express your concerns, the sooner your child's needs will be identified and the sooner he or she will receive the help needed to succeed. Anyone can refer a child, birth through age 21, for early intervention or special education services. The referral can come from a parent, foster parent, teacher, counselor, friend, relative, or the student who finds learning difficult. Screening and evaluation services are free.

### If You Have Concerns

If you have concerns about your child's development or progress in school, contact the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) or your local school. AzEIP screens children **ages birth to 2 years 10 1/2 months** to determine if early intervention services are needed. An AzEIP specialist will come to your home to talk with you about your concerns and observe your child. If your child is found eligible, a plan will be designed to include strategies, activities, and supports to achieve desired outcomes related to your child's development.

For concerns regarding your child **ages 2 years 10 1/2 months through 21 years**, contact your local school district or the charter school your child attends. Public schools use a screening process to check your child's development and academic progress. If an evaluation is needed, you will be a part of the evaluation team. You will be involved in the decision-making process to determine if your child is eligible for special education and related services. Eligible students are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

### Who Can Help?

For children **ages birth to 2 years 10 1/2 months**, contact AzEIP at: [www.azdes.gov/azeip](http://www.azdes.gov/azeip), or call 1-888-439-5609 or (602) 532-9960.

For children **ages 2 years 10 1/2 months through 21 years**, contact your local school district or the charter school that your child attends. For children attending private schools, contact your principal for a referral to the appropriate public education agency.

### Information Is Confidential

All information contained in the screening or evaluation is confidential.

### Parent Involvement

Parent involvement in the special education process is critical to your child's success. You are the best advocate for your child.

- Ask the school for a copy of the Procedural Safeguards Notice. This will explain your special education rights.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions. Find out what tests will be given to your child and why they have been considered.
- Be involved in your child's evaluation. Find out what kind of information you will be asked to contribute to the process.
- Request copies of important paperwork, including a copy of the final report. Maintain those documents in a safe place.
- Keep a log of phone calls. Use your calendar to track testing dates and meetings.

Contact the Parent Information Network (PIN) for FREE special education resources, consultation, and training. Visit the PIN website to locate the PIN Specialist in your area, [www.azed.gov/special-education/pins](http://www.azed.gov/special-education/pins), or call 1-877-230-PINS (7467).

Every school district and charter school is assigned an Education Program Specialist through the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services. To contact an Education Program Specialist call: Phoenix (602) 542-4013, Tucson (520) 628-6330, or Flagstaff (928) 679-8100.