

## What types of programs and services are available through CPSE?

- Related Services only
- Special Education Itinerant Teacher
- Related Services in combination with a special Education Itinerant Teacher
- Special Class
- Special Class in an Integrated Setting

The CPSE must always consider delivering services in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) appropriate to the child. This means children with disabilities should be educated with children who are non-disabled, as much as possible.

## What is an Individual Education Program (IEP)?

If it is determined that your child is eligible for preschool special education program or services, an IEP will be developed by the CPSE. The IEP specifies the goals and objectives, and special education programs and services necessary to meet the unique needs of your child.

## Will my child be labeled?

Your child, if eligible for preschool special education services will be classified as a "Preschool Student with a Disability." If your child no longer needs services, he/she will be declassified.

## When will my child's IEP be reviewed?

Your child's IEP must be reviewed at least annually. In addition, you, the school district or the special education provider may request a meeting at any time to review or change the IEP.

## When are services through the CPSE provided?

Committee on Preschool Special Education services follow the school calendar September-June. Summer services may be provided for certain children.

## What happens when my child turns age five?

If your child continues to need special education services when he/she turns five years of age, they may be referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE).

For further information on the transition process contact a service coordinator at:

**Warren County Health Services  
Division of Public Health  
1340 State Route 9  
Lake George NY 12845  
1-800-755-8102  
(518) 761-6580**

# Warren County Health Services

## Early Intervention Program



## Positive Connections from EI to CPSE

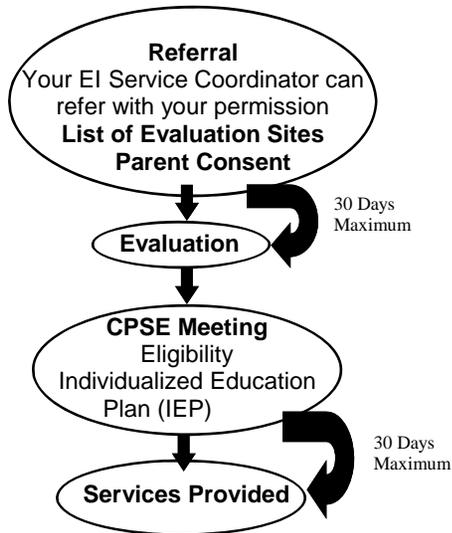
## What happens when my child turns 3?

## What is Transition?

Currently your child is receiving services through the Early Intervention Program (EI). When your child approaches age three, the determination of his/her program and where services are provided become the responsibility of your school district through the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). Transition is the process that may include changes in the location, and types of programs, therapists, and priorities for your child. What is right for you and your child now may not be appropriate, necessary or available at another time. Your EI Services Coordinator will help facilitate this transition. Please keep in mind that this transition must be completed within the specified time in order to prevent a gap in services for your child. Once this transition is complete your EI Service Coordinator will no longer be working with your family.

## What is CPSE?

Each school district in New York State must have a Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) with a chairperson. If you suspect your child may have a problem, you can refer your child to the CPSE. Preschool special education includes evaluation and a variety of special services. There are many choices about where and how special services can be provided. **You have a say in what happens.** The special services your child receives are developed by the CPSE. The Committee consists of you, the chairperson from the school district, a representative from the county where you live, someone who evaluated your child or can interpret the evaluation, teachers and an appointed parent from your district. You can bring along anyone else you think can be helpful.



The CPSE, upon receiving your written permission, will arrange for evaluations special services for your child. Once the evaluation for your child is completed, the CPSE Chairperson will convene a meeting to determine whether or not your child is eligible for preschool special education services and what those services might be. At least five days prior to the meeting you will receive an invitation to attend. If you decide you do not wish to attend the meeting it will still be held. If you are unable to attend you can request that it be rescheduled at a time when you will be able to attend. If your child is found eligible for preschool special education services, you may elect to have your child remain in the EIP until your child ages out. If your child is found ineligible for preschool special education services, your child's EI services will end on your child's third birthday.

## Who may be present at the CPSE meeting?

- You the parent/caregiver and anyone you wish to invite
- The CPSE Chairperson
- A parent member
- A representative from Warren County
- Your EI Service Coordinator Representative
- A regular education teacher
- A special education teacher
- A representative from your child's evaluation team

## What if I disagree with the CPSE?

You have legal rights called "due process." Your CPSE Chairperson will provide you with a written description of these rights.

## What is a CPSE evaluation?

Evaluation refers to a careful examination of a child's skills, strengths and weaknesses in order to determine current levels of functioning and how best to plan for the child. An evaluation procedure consists of gathering information through observation, family interviewing, and testing.

Testing: The formal testing includes all areas of development:

- motor**-moving, using his/her body, using "fine muscles" for tasks like grasping;
- cognition**-thinking, figuring things out, problem solving;
- speech/language**-talking, understanding, communicating;
- adaptive**-self-help in areas like dressing and eating;
- social/emotional**-getting along with others, coping;
- physical**-general health overview.

The reports that are received as a result of the evaluation should give a clear idea about how a child is functioning in the key areas of development. What can he/she do? What does he/she like to do? What kinds of things should he/she be encouraged to do next? What do you as a parent want for him/her? The initial CPSE evaluation is comprehensive. It includes a psychological evaluation, medical history, social history, education evaluation and other evaluations necessary to determine your child's eligibility for services. The three local evaluators are Prospect Child and Family, Glens Falls Hospital, and Psychological Associates.

If your child is eligible there are services options available for preschoolers with a disability.

- Where can preschool children receive their services?
- Home
  - Day Care Centers
  - Head Starts
  - Nursery School
  - Pre-Kindergarten
  - Special Education Preschools

### 1. Related Services:\*

The therapist works with the child a specified number of times each week, and also interacts with the family and the staff of any typical program the child might attend. The therapy(ies) can be provided at any of the sites above. The site will be decided at the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) meeting.

### 2. Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT):

This option provides a child with the services of a special education teacher. The SEIT will work with the child and family or program at least 2 hours each week. Some children in this model also receive other related services therapies. They will work with the child the amount of time prescribed on his/her IEP. All services can be provided in a variety of locations.

\*For example: physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy) At your CPSE meeting, Options 1 & 2 **must** be considered for your child prior to the consideration of either of the following, more restrictive program options.

### 3. Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS):

In this model, a child with special needs is placed in a class that contains both typical children and other children with special needs. There is a special education teacher and there are assistants involved with the children throughout their educational program, as well as a regular preschool or day care teacher. Usually there are between 15-20 children in the class. The related service staff are involved as required by the IEPs.

### 4. Special Class:

This is a class of no more than 12 children, all of whom have special needs. It is staffed by a special education teacher, and one or more assistants. Related services staff meet with each child as prescribed in his/her IEP.