

EVALUATIONS

Speech Screenings will be conducted to determine the needs of children who potentially display less severe speech and language challenges. During this time, the child's speech and/or language needs will be screened to determine if a full evaluation is recommended. If an evaluation is warranted, consent would be obtained at the time of the screening and an evaluation date/time will be established.

Speech Only Evaluations are generally conducted at the child's home school (the school he/she would be attending if they were in school) or the corporation of legal settlement. It is generally the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) who will be contacting you to set up a date and time to complete the evaluation.



Classroom Based Assessments are conducted in a preschool classroom. It is used to determine the needs of students who are referred by First Steps or by parents with multiple concerns. Students attend the morning or afternoon classroom assessment for 2 hours daily for 1-3 days during which speech, cognitive, and occupational therapy evaluations may take place, as well as observations of classroom behaviors, social and pre-academic skills. Physical therapy, psycho-educational and/or autism evaluations may be included as necessary. This is a preschool class with both special needs and typically developing students. The classroom is staffed by a preschool teacher and/or classroom assistants. Following this in-class assessment, a case conference is held to determine eligibility and placement needs of the student.

SERVICE OPTIONS

Walk-In Therapy: Speech Services are generally provided at the preschooler's home school. The length and duration of these less restrictive services will be determined at the child's case conference. Sessions may be individual or small group, are generally 20-30 minutes long, and will meet 1-2 times per week.

Speech Class: Some of our school corporations offer a speech class for children with more delayed articulation skills. The class generally meets one time per week for ~30 minutes. This class would simulate a preschool class with an emphasis on sound productions and language concepts. The class size is limited to 6-8 children with a speech and language pathologist providing the instruction.



ACT/CES Preschool Programs: These classrooms are generally a less restrictive educational setting available to those preschoolers residing in Argos, Culver and Triton. The ACT (Argos) and CES (Culver) Preschools are a general education preschool classroom where JESSE children are serviced using an inclusive model.

- Children can participate from 2.5 hours/day, upto a full day
- Children can attend up to 5 days/week
- Transportation is available to and from preschool.
- Therapists work with preschoolers and teachers during the preschool day to provide the services outlined in the educational plan developed during the case conference.
- Progress towards goals is provided in writing, regularly.
- Annual Conferences will be conducted to document progress, update goals and objectives and establish services for the next 12 months.

Integrated Early Childhood Preschool: is not the least restrictive environment for all children; therefore it would not be appropriate or legally defensible under Article 7 for all students. Eligibility for this program is determined at the Case Conference and is based on the degree of delay and amount of services needed. This is considered to be a more restrictive educational setting than the previous mentioned walk-in therapies.

- Participation can be from 1-5 days per week, based on need and family preference.
- The program is designed for half days (~2.5 hours per day), up to 5 days per week.
- Transportation may be provided both to and from preschool.
- Transportation is on a school bus with appropriate seating for each preschooler transported.
- The classes consist of children from the ages of 3-5 with varying special needs, including hearing or vision impairments, language delays, developmental delays, mild, moderate or severe mental impairments, physical impairments, autism, or a combination of these needs.
- Typically developing children are included in each preschool class to serve as role models for age appropriate language and behavior(s).
- Therapists work with the children and teachers in the classroom each week or every other week to provide services outlined in the educational plan developed by the case conference committee.
- Progress toward the goals is noted in writing each grading period and sent to parents.
- Annual Conferences will be conducted to document progress, update goals and objectives and establish services for the next 12 months
- When a child no longer qualifies for the integrated preschool, the committee will reconvene and select a lesser restrictive environment or discharge the student completely if he/she is found ineligible for services.

