***Child Find: A Search For Children with Disabilities***

**What Is Child Find?**

Child Find is the process of identifuing, locating and ealuating children with disabilites who ma be in need of special educaiton and related services.

**Why is there Child Find?**

Both state and local education agencies are given the responsibility by federal and state laws to conduce child find activites so that children who need special services have the opportunity to receive those services.

**What is the purpose of Child Find?**

\*To promote public awareness

\*To alert parents, professionals, and the public to children who may have special needs

\*To assist school districts in finding children who may have disabilities and who otherwise may not have come to their attention

\*To enable children and families to receive the special education and related services that are needed.

**What does a disability mean?**

For age Birth to 3- An established condition known to result in delay, or a documented developmental delay

For ages 3 through 5- A documented deficit in one of more of the following developmental areas: communication, vision, hearing, motor skills, social emotional/behavioral functioning, self-help, and/or cognitive skills

For ages 5 through 21- Identification of one ore more of the following conditions: autisim, deaf-blindness, hearing impariment including deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities; orthopedic impairment, other health impariment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impariment, traumatic brain injury, and/or visual impariment including blindness.

**Who can help?**

Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizes are used to help school districts find any child, age birth - 21, who may have a disability and need special educaiton and related services. If you are aware of a child who may have special needs, please notify his/her school district. Schools can do their job better with your help.

**What happens next?**

The school district will contact the parents of the child to find out it the child needs to be evaluated. Free testing is available to families to determine whether or not a special need exists. If a need is identified, the child can begin receiving special education and related services.

**The sooner we know, the better it goes for every child.**

**If you know a child who may have special needs, help is available. Call your local school district or your area special education regional resource center (SERRC) at the number below:**

**Lincoln Way SERRC**

**330-875-2423**

Click on the link to find our more about the program. [**https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Re...**](https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Procedures-and-Guidance/Child-Find)