

Where to Find More Information

The DoDEA Parent's Guide to Special Education includes a list of Internet resources on this topic and many others. The guide can be downloaded at the Department of Defense Education Agency (DoDEA) Special Education Home Page. http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm

Sites Especially for Military Families

For more information about Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), visit www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/efm and click on "EFMP," speak to a Special Needs Coordinator at your local military treatment facility, or visit one of the service-specific Web sites listed in the "For Information and Assistance" section.

Military OneSource - A Master's-degree consultant is available to provide help with concerns related to children with special needs 24 hours a day. Translation services are available in most languages. Call 1-800-655-4545 (in US and overseas). <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Systematic Training for Military Parents (STOMP) provides information, training, and assistance to military families who have children with disabilities. <http://www.stompproject.org>

Other Important Sites

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers - Locator to find state parent training and information centers and links to scientifically-based research, national information centers, and IDEA. <http://www.taalliance.org>

National Dissemination Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities - Clearinghouse of information about special education and specific disabilities, summaries of key topics and points of contact in each state. <http://www.nichey.org>

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) - <http://www.peatc.org>

IDEA Partnerships

Portal to resources related to IDEA, the law, national technical assistance providers, state/ local organizations and agencies, and the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). <http://www.ideapartnership.org>

U.S. Department of Education - information on special education, parent involvement, education research, laws and regulations. <http://www.ed.gov>

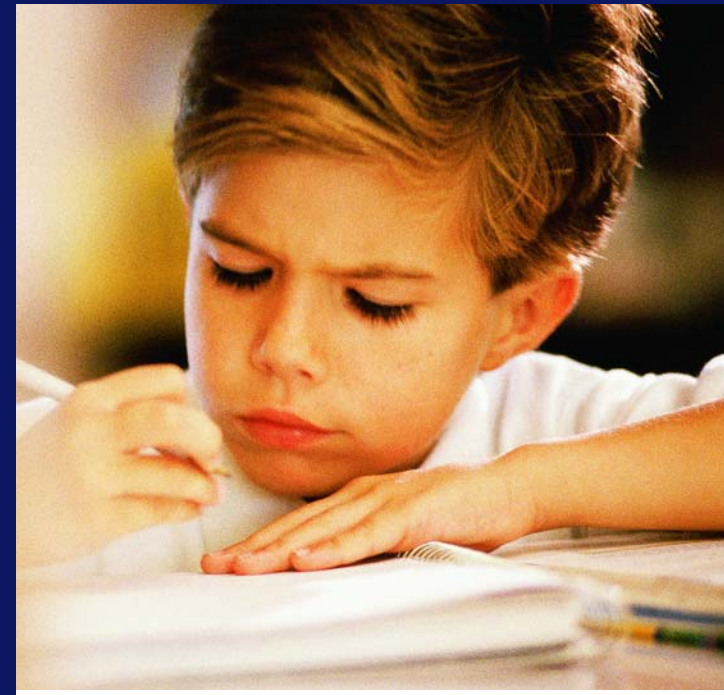
Non-DoD informational references are being provided as required by IDEA but their inclusion in this material does not constitute any endorsement by DoDEA.

DoDEA Special Education Series

The complete series of brochures and other resources for parents of students with disabilities are available on the DoDEA special education website at http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm.

Special Education Brochures

1. Pre-referral Interventions: Steps Before a Special Education Referral/Assessment
2. Moving: Things to Remember When Relocating
3. Communicating Effectively: Building a Strong Partnership
4. Individualized Education Program (IEP): Your Role in the Process
5. Related Services: Understanding the Purpose of these Services
6. Early Intervention Services: Transitioning to Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities
7. Transition: Planning for Life After High School
8. Parent Rights and Responsibilities: Insights into Your Rights and Responsibilities
9. Resolving Disputes: Your Role in Reaching Resolutions
10. Assistive Technology: Assessment, Devices, and Available Services



Pre-referral Interventions Steps Before a Special Education Referral/Assessment

a publication of the

dodea

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Education Directorate/Student Services Branch
4040 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1635

dodea

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Pre-referral Interventions Steps Before a Special Education Referral/Assessment

Early Indications of a Disability

As a parent, your number one priority is to meet your child's needs, which includes making sure he or she receives a quality education. But you may not be aware that your child has a disability that is hindering his or her performance in school. You should be concerned if your child is experiencing some of the following behaviors at school or home:

- Lack of focus usually seen in children the same age
- Persistent difficulty following direction
- Frequent outbursts for no apparent reason
- Difficulty keeping up with classmates in math and reading
- Inability to talk as well as children the same age
- Unusual play with toys and other objects
- Repetitive body movements or behavior patterns
- Physical or emotional problems that are out of the ordinary
- Difficulty relating to people, objects and events

Finding Help?

If your child is exhibiting one or more of these behaviors without an obvious cause, you should contact your child's teacher or guidance counselor to arrange an informal conference and discuss your concerns. During this conference, your child's teacher and other involved school personnel, will work with you to develop strategies and interventions that may help your child address any learning difficulties at school and at home. This conference will serve as a planning meeting for an informal period of intervention. The questions on the back of this pamphlet can help you prepare for this meeting.



The Pre-referral Process

The pre-referral process aims to identify and correct learning and/or behavior difficulties using informal intervention strategies within the regular classroom prior to making a referral for a special education eligibility assessment.

Recommended Interventions

Interventions are changes in routines, both at home and at school, that have been recommended at the parent meeting as a result of the pre-referral process. During the intervention period, you should share with the school your observations about your child's behavior at home, knowledge about his or her development, and understanding of how your child learns. This information can help teachers and other school personnel better understand your child's needs and response to intervention.

Your child may also be recommended to receive support services during the intervention period. These may include:

- remedial reading or math instruction
- counseling
- psychological support
- social work services
- community services

Next Steps

School officials will meet with you to discuss your child's progress in response to pre-referral/interventions. If your child's performance is not improved, they may try modifying the interventions in some way or even try additional interventions.

If problems continue, another option may be a discussion with you about referring your child to be assessed for special education or some other services that your child's school offers. Whichever, the school personnel will work with you to develop the next steps.

Behavioral Observations

If you are concerned that your child is exhibiting unusual behaviors, write down your observations in advance of the parent's conference at your child's school. The following questions can help you prepare for this meeting:

What do you see?

When do you see it?

How often do you see it?
