

Early Childhood Special Education Profiles:  
*A Directory of Programs and Services for Children Ages 3-5 with Disabilities*

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*Foreword*

The State Department of Education, and the Department's Preschool Special Education Program in the Bureau of Early Childhood Education, Student and Family Services is pleased to issue the ***Early Childhood Special Education Profiles: A Directory of Programs and Services for Children Ages 3-5 with Disabilities*** (2003-2004)

The purpose of this publication is to provide general information – a snapshot – of the special education programs and related services implemented across the state as school districts provide the individualized programs and services to their students with disabilities ages 3-5. The first attempt at issuing a publication of this kind took place in the 1993-1994 school year in order to address the inquiries and identified need for information from families, school district personnel, Birth to Three service providers and others. The availability of the information and the access by parents and professionals over time has been of great assistance particularly as children transition from the state's Birth to Three Program to Special Education at age 3. Since that initial publication the information has been accessed and used by parents and professionals and has been found to be extremely helpful. The publication has been updated six times since 1993-1994 and has been refined to provide information based on feedback from families and professionals. The Department hopes that the document continues to be of assistance to families and professionals throughout the state.

It is important to note that in Connecticut, preschool special education programs and services are continually evolving to ensure that eligible preschool- and kindergarten-aged children with disabilities are provided a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment to meet their individual needs. Each individual student's individualized educational program (IEP) reflects high student expectations, high quality and developmentally appropriate curricula and practices, family involvement and family participation in the child's program, opportunities for receiving special education with typical peers and community-based coordination and collaboration with the early childhood education community. Programs and services throughout the state are providing:

- ❖ developmentally appropriate curricula and environments;
- ❖ avenues and activities for the participation of families in the education of their child;
- ❖ opportunities for the inclusion and integration of children with disabilities and typically developing peers;
- ❖ transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary team models;
- ❖ collaboration and coordination with the early childhood community; and
- ❖ direct, consultative, itinerant and support services.

For further information regarding preschool special education contact your local school district or the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood, Students and Family Support, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, Connecticut 06457. Telephone (860) 807-2054 or visit our web site at [www.state.ct.us/sde/](http://www.state.ct.us/sde/).