

Kendall County Special Education Cooperative

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Purpose

The purpose of Early Childhood programming in Kendall County is to provide an education to preschool aged children identified with disabilities that is adaptable to each child's needs, interests, and level of development. Through individualized instruction, all students progress at their own rate. Kendall County Special Education Cooperative is able to provide intensive interventions for children who are experiencing difficulty in achieving age-appropriate developmental levels.

Program Goals

- To foster development of age-appropriate skills in the areas of language arts, math/science/ motor, social/emotional, and behavior as aligned with the Early Learning Standards of Illinois.
- To provide developmentally appropriate activities within a research-based early childhood curriculum utilizing specialized instructional strategies.
- To help families understand and support their child's progress and development.
- To coordinate services and provide for a successful transition when planning for future educational needs in the school environment.

Entrance Criteria

- A child currently receiving Early Intervention services may qualify for a school-based evaluation before his/her third birthday. With parent/guardian permission, information pertaining to a child's Early Intervention services and reports of his/her development will be provided to KCSEC for consideration for school-based services. KCSEC staff collaborates with Child and Family Connections during the transition process from Early Intervention.
- Preschool screening is offered using a standardized screening instrument to determine whether a child is demonstrating age-appropriate developmental skills. A child who has difficulty completing this screening may be referred for further evaluation in specific developmental domains.
- Further evaluation utilizes a play-based assessment format and/or standardized assessment tools. A child's eligibility for special education programs is based on current levels of delay and the extent to which those delays may impact them in an educational setting.

- Special education support may be recommended for children with moderate to significant delays in development. The school-based IEP team recommends services dependent on the child's assessed educational needs.

Exit Criteria

- A child may exit the Early Childhood program when assessment and the IEP team determine that the developmental gaps have closed and the child's skills are within the age-appropriate range.
- Students may exit the Early Childhood program upon reaching kindergarten age. The IEP team determines the appropriate services to be provided upon entrance into kindergarten.
- A student will exit the Early Childhood program upon the determination that he/she is no longer eligible for special education services.
- A child may exit the Early Childhood program if the parent chooses to discontinue services.

Available Early Childhood Programs

- Early Childhood Preschool Blended Classroom. This classroom provides preschool instruction to children identified as eligible for special education in a setting that includes limited numbers of children with identified disabilities and their typically developing peers.
- Early Childhood Preschool Instructional Classroom. This classroom serves preschool aged students with delays of twelve months or more in any area of development. Only special education students are enrolled in this classroom, which provides direct instruction in a small group with related services as prescribed in the child's Individualized Educational Program (IEP).
- Early Childhood Preschool Intensive Classroom. This classroom is designed to provide instructional services to students identified with autism spectrum disorders. It specializes in providing the visual, communication, behavioral, environmental, and social supports identified as critical for children with pervasive developmental disabilities.
- Speech and Language Resource Levels I, II and III. This program may be recommended for a child with moderate delays in speech and/or language

development as the only area of delay. This program is provided in a group setting one or more times per week.

Related services are provided to students in Early Childhood programs according to their IEP.

Information regarding school district At-Risk preschool programs and community- based preschools is provided to families.