Child Find
Finding Children with Disabilities
Presentation for Community
Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities which may include screening, designed to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities who may be in need of early intervention programs or special education as soon as possible.
Screening for Child Find

- Identifies children who require further evaluation
- Brief & General
- Not intended to use for program placement or diagnosis
Prevalence of Children with Disabilities:

- Approximately 12–16% of children have disabilities
- Only 30% of children with disabilities are detected before school entrance

Incidence of children identified as having a disability by age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 3 Years</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 5 Years</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 – 21 Years</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
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http://www.ideaadata.org
Why Screen?

BECAUSE WE ARE MISSING CHILDREN!
National Initiative
Birth to Five – Watch me Thrive!
Child Find is a Continuous Process

1. Screen
2. Identify
3. Locate
4. Evaluate
5. Provide Services
6. Raise Awareness
Comprehensive Child Find System ensures that all children who are in need of early intervention or special education services are identified, located, and evaluated.
Lead Agencies in Wisconsin

Part C – Birth to 3
Department of Health Services
County Administrative Agency

Part B – 3 through 21
Department of Public Instruction
Local School Districts
Child Find Includes All Children

Infants, toddlers and preschoolers
Private, public or tribal school children
Highly mobile children
Homeless children
Home Schooled Children
Migrant children
Wards of the state
Past Practices

1. Children were screened to determine readiness for kindergarten

2. Locally developed screening tools were used

3. Children were screened at “stations” and usually separated from parents

4. Parents had limited involvement in screening

5. Child Development Days were held
Current Practices

1. All children screened as early as possible

2. Screening instruments used are valid, reliable and have normative samples

3. Child Find is a continuous process rather than a single event

4. Parents recognized as experts on their children's development

5. Community resources are shared with families of young children
A coordinated effort by community partners to:

- Identify
- Locate
- Evaluate

all children with a disability
Informed Referral Network

One Tapestry ... Many Threads

COMMUNITY PARTNERS may include:

Advocates
Bilingual Services
Child Care Providers
Childcare Resource and Referral
County Agencies
County Birth to 3 Programs
Domestic Abuse Services
Faith Based Organizations
Families
Family Resource Centers
Guardians
Head Start/Early Head Start
Health Care Providers
Health/Social Service Departments
Higher Education
Homeless Liaisons
Home Visiting Programs
Law Enforcement
Local School Districts
Migrant Services
Parents
Physicians/Doctors
Preschool Providers
Public, Private, and Home Schools
Public Libraries
Recreation Service Providers
Service Clubs
Shelters
State Agencies
Tribal Head Start
Tribal Service Providers
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
Other
Benefits of an Informed Referral Network

- Provide Information
- Create a Feeling of Support
- Disseminate Information about Resources
- Build Partnerships
- Deepen Relationships
- Collaborative Community Councils
Making connections with community partners has proven to be the most effective practice in identifying young children with special needs.

Christenson and Sheridan (2007)
Public Awareness

Child Find brochures placed in your community

District/Community Websites/Billboards

Public Service Announcements

- Direct mailings/emails
- Websites/facebook/twitter
- News media
Types of Screening

Newborn
Blood Levels
Vision/Hearing
Developmental/Behavioral
  Autism
  Social/Emotional
  Learning and Development

Universal Screening for Instruction (PreK–12)
Screening is Designed To

**Educate** families about typical child development

**Develop/Expand** awareness of community resources for young children and their families

**Identify** young children in need of further evaluation
Screening Activities Should Include

• Parents and/or care giver involvement

• Sensitivity to the child’s cultural background/primary language

• Results reviewed by trained personnel and share with parents
Screening Instrument Considerations

- Age appropriate
- Easily administered
- Cost effective
- Based on valid, reliable and normative
Some Examples:

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3)

Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)
Where and When Could Child Find Screenings Occur?

**Where:**
- Child Care Settings
- Family Resource Centers
- Head Start
- Home
- Libraries
- Medical Settings
- Schools

**When:**
- Anytime there is a request for a screening
- Monthly, quarterly, yearly
- In combination with other school events (4K/5K registration)
- In combination with other community events
Suspect a Disability?

Next steps would include:

Referral

Evaluation/Assessment

Determination of a Disability and a need for Special Education
Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities which include screening, designed to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who may be in need of early intervention programs or special education as soon possible.
Who are the partners in your Informed Referral Network?

How will we further build relationships with community partners?

Are all the partners in our community who touch the lives of young children and their families represented?
Questions
Child Find Resources

Collaborating Partners

Wisconsin Birth to Three Program

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/early-childhood/child-find
“We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer ‘Tomorrow’, his name is Today”

Gabriela Mistral 1889–1957