





Learning Objectives

-  Participants articulate the rationale and benefits of including children with special needs in child care.
-  Participants identify the “early warning signs” that a child may need referral and assessment.
-  Participants identify the steps to make referrals and access services.
-  Participants practice strategies for building and enhancing relationships with families and service providers.



What Are Special Needs?

Children can have special needs in any of these areas of development:

- motor (movement)
- perceptual
- language and communication
- cognitive (thinking)
- attention
- social
- emotional and psychological
- physical (including hearing, vision and general health)



The Developmental Assessment

The purpose of assessment

- Identify child's strengths and needs
- Determine diagnosis
- Determine eligibility for special services
- Answer family or provider questions or concerns
- Plan for services
- Measure child's progress

What the assessment includes

- Screening vs. assessment
- Informal vs. formal
- Occurs over time
- Collection of information in various developmental areas
- In a variety of settings, including the home or child care
- Conducted by experienced, qualified professionals
- Multidisciplinary team is involved