



## Preschool Assessment Process

When a toddler or preschool age child experiences any development delay, parents, teachers, and/or medical professionals often refer the child to the school district for further assessment and evaluation. Federal law requires that school districts assess and possibly provide services for children ages 3-5 when they are found to qualify as having a documented disability. The process of identifying and documenting the disability follows several steps and involves a variety of school professionals.

### Step One

After speaking with the school psychologist about their concerns, parents will register their child with the Orange City School District using their online registration tool. Screening and/or visit #1 is usually the first step in the process. The screening allows members of the preschool evaluation team (typically the school psychologist, intervention specialist and related service providers) an opportunity to observe the child and gather background information. In addition, formal screening tools may be used for comparisons with typically developing peers and to highlight potential areas of concern. Orange Inclusive Preschool offers screenings throughout the school year to the OCSD community.

### Step Two

If, as a result of the screening process, it is determined that the child's difficulties are due to a suspected disability rather than variations in normal development, a Multifactorial Evaluation (MFE) will be conducted by the preschool team. The MFE is the evaluation process used to determine if a child is to be considered as a child with an educational disability. This process gathers information from a variety of sources including the child's parents, who are valuable team members.

Once a disability has been documented as a result of the MFE, the next step is to create a plan which will best meet the needs of the child. During this step, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed jointly by parents and the preschool evaluation team. The IEP will outline the educational and developmental goals for the child, the services that will be provided to help him/her achieve those goals and appropriate placement.

If through the process of either the screening or MFE it is determined that the child does not have a suspected or documented disability the preschool team will consult with parents to determine other options that may be available for the family.

***For questions, please contact the Orange Inclusive  
Preschool Office at 216-831-8600 x5605***