

Intervention Choices

Chesterfield Infant Program versus Chesterfield County Public Schools

Families with children with disabilities often begin early intervention services when their children are very young. Children may access early intervention services from birth to age three years. Children are eligible for special education services if two years old on or before September 30 of a school year. There are circumstances when children may be age-eligible to receive services in both agencies and parents must choose which agency services best meet the needs of their child and family. Listed below are some factors that may assist families in making the right decision for their individual situation.

Chesterfield Infant Program

Chesterfield County Public Schools

Children and families have developed positive relationships with staff and may not be comfortable changing service providers.	Positive relationships are developed and trust is built with new service providers once special education services have started.
Intervention services are provided in the home or natural environment according to the Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP).	Special education services may be provided in a group setting in the community, in a therapy room and/or in the home depending on the Individualized Education Program (IEP).
Family members are involved in the intervention sessions and can promote carry-over /generalization throughout the child's routine.	Family members are involved in the special education program and can promote carry-over /generalization throughout the child's routine.
Early intervention services are year-round until the child is three years old.	Special Education services follow the school calendar for Chesterfield County. Services through the IEP stop mid-June through August unless the child requires extended school year services.
Families may be charged a fee for early intervention services.	Special education and related services are part of a free and appropriate public education.
Goals are family-focused with supports for parents as well as services to the child.	Goals are child-focused with special-education instruction targeting the child's skill development.
Education, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech/language therapy may be primary services provided to the child.	Occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy may be related services based on the needs of the child. Education and/or speech/language therapy may be primary services on the IEP.
A child and family may receive early intervention supports and services if the child is: up to three years old and has certain levels of developmental delay, differences in development and/or a diagnosed condition.	A child may be found eligible for special education if they have an identified educational disability and requires specially designed instruction.