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## **Child Find**

Child Find is a legal requirement that school districts find children who have disabilities and may be entitled to special education services. It is the responsibility of the Hudson Public Schools to locate and identify any child who is a town resident that may have a disability. It is the responsibility of the Hudson Public Schools to evaluate students who may have a disability to determine if they are eligible for special education or related services under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) or 603 CMR 28 (Massachusetts Special Education Regulations).

The Hudson Public Schools is committed to identifying children before their third birthday in order to provide early intervention services for three, four and five year old children. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's development and would like him/her to have a developmental screening, please contact the Office of Students' Services at 155 Apsley Street. You can reach Tanya O'Connell, Assistant Director/Preschool Coordinator at 978-567-6100 ext. 42136 or at [tmoconnell@hudson.k12.ma.us](mailto:tmoconnell@hudson.k12.ma.us). The screenings are scheduled on the first Wednesday morning of each month.

If you have specific questions about your school-aged child, you can contact the Principal at your child's school for information about the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), available in every school. MTSS provides targeted interventions and supports to students with academic and/or emotional challenges. It is through this school-based process that strategies are developed and academic and/or behavioral interventions and data is collected to support your child in order to determine if a referral for a special education evaluation is needed.

## **Preschool Programs**

We recognize that young children grow and learn at their own rate in a safe, nurturing, developmentally appropriate environment. Our preschool programs provide opportunities for socialization, creative activities, and emotional, physical and cognitive development. Constructive play activities that are child-initiated and teacher-facilitated are the primary vehicles of meaningful learning experiences. Through a

classroom that promotes the development of positive personal relationships and utilizes a variety of hands-on experiences, children gain confidence in their ability to explore, question, discover, solve problems, integrate knowledge, think critically and take risks.

Children with suspected disabilities are referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility for preschool services through the Office of Student Services. Evaluation requests come from a variety of sources, including but not limited to parents, community based preschools, State of Massachusetts Early Intervention Program, and local pediatricians.

The **Farley and Mulready Preschools** are integrated early childhood programs, designed for students with a high level of need for developmental growth. Teachers utilize a variety of teaching formats including small-group instruction, strategies and supports, including the principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis. If eligible for special education services, students with disabilities are placed in a full or half day program based on the proposal of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Typically developing students (role model) are determined through a lottery system held in December and pay tuition to participate in the program 4 mornings a week.

**Hubert Preschool** is an inclusion preschool program in partnership with CHAPS, Inc. to provide high quality services to students with and without disabilities. The inclusion program promotes the healthy emotional, social, cognitive, communicative and physical development of all children. An understanding of child development, respect for the individual needs of children, and ongoing assessment are all used to plan, organize and direct the program. Students with disabilities receive multi-day, half day programs based on the proposal of the IEP team if the student is found eligible for special education services. Typically developing students without disabilities at Hubert Preschool register through CHAPS, Inc. at [hudsonchaps.com](http://hudsonchaps.com) and pay tuition to participate in the part day programs. Christina Shea, CHAPS Director, can provide more information and can be reached at 978-567-6130.