

# Child Find

By Aggie Wolter

Director of Special Services, Lake Havasu Unified School District #1

The Special Services Department of Lake Havasu Unified School District's mission is to identify children with disabilities and provide a free and appropriate education for them as prescribed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

All individuals with disabilities aged birth (0) through twenty-one (21) years within the District's jurisdiction are to be located, identified and evaluated including children who are home schooled or attending religious or private schools who are in need of special education and related services. Public charter schools are responsible for Child Find responsibilities for their students.



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When children are "found", they are referred to a specialist to screen for development. The screening helps "identify" any areas of concern that need to be evaluated further. In order to receive early intervention or special education services, a child must be evaluated to confirm they have a delay or disability that falls under state definitions.

Screening and evaluation processes are available at no cost to parents who believe their child (0 – 21 years) may be in need of early intervention services.

- Preschool special education services for children ages 3 – 5 years provide special strategies to help children reach developmental milestones. Requests for screening and evaluation for children ages **3 years**

**to 5 years** may be directly referred to LHUSD's Developmental Preschool located at Smoketree Elementary School at 928-505-6033.

- Special education services for school-aged students in kindergarten through the age of 21 years provide specialized instruction and services to assist student in the educational environment. Requests for evaluation and screening for school-aged students (**Kindergarten - 21 years**) must be made in writing to the school principal of the school the student attends. Parents of non-public school student, including home schooled and private schooled may ask for evaluation, whether or not their student is enrolled in the District's public school program. If a school-aged student is home or private schooled, the request must be made in writing to the Director of Special Services, Aggie Wolter.

If an individual qualifies, special services may include Psycho-Educational, Speech, Hearing, Vision, Social and Emotional, Occupational, or Physical evaluations. Services in any of these areas may be appropriate. You may find more information on Child Find on the L.H.U.S.D.'s website at [www.havasu.k12.az.us/specialservices/child\\_find.htm](http://www.havasu.k12.az.us/specialservices/child_find.htm).