

Educational Evaluation

The Metropolitan School District of Washington Township provides special education services at Hilltop Learning Center for children, ages 3-5, identified with developmental delays. If you have any questions about the development of your child, please call the Hilltop Coordinator, (317) 259-5458, ext. 43011, to discuss your concerns.

Eligibility will be determined based on a multidisciplinary educational evaluation. The initial evaluation, conducted by a team of professionals in collaboration with the child's parents/guardians, is completed to determine the child's area of eligibility for services. Areas of eligibility recognized in Article 7, *Indiana's Special Education Rules*, include:

- Autism spectrum disorder
- Blind or low vision
- Cognitive disability
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Deaf-blind
- Developmental delay (early childhood)
- Emotional disability
- Language or speech impairment
- Multiple disabilities
- Other health impairment
- Orthopedic impairment
- Specific learning disability
- Traumatic brain injury

The evaluation team may include a school psychologist, a teacher knowledgeable about early childhood development, a speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist, and/or physical therapist. Additional persons may be added to address more unique needs if necessary. The evaluation will be conducted in an arena format, which allows the professional team to work together to gather the needed information within a time frame that is appropriate for the child. The arena assessment is conducted at Hilltop Learning Center and may take 60-90 minutes, depending on the child's needs. For a child with a suspected speech impairment only, the speech and language pathologist may serve as the sole evaluator.

Following the evaluation, the Coordinator will schedule a case conference meeting. The parents/guardians are an important part of this decision making team. At the case conference committee meeting, the team will share evaluation information, review all other pertinent information, and discuss the child's educational needs. If the case conference committee determines that the child is eligible for special education services, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be developed. This document will define the specific special education services that the child will receive. The goals of the special education interventions will be defined as part of the plan. Parents/guardians will be given a copy of all evaluation reports as well as a copy of the case conference committee report, which includes the IEP.