

Philosophy and Belief Statements

River Bend Education District's Early Childhood Special Education department provides an opportunity for ongoing partnership among parents, caregivers, school staff, and community agencies. We provide resources and support to effectively prepare children, up to age three for independent functioning in home, childcare and community settings.

- We believe families are active decision makers in their child's education; we will provide support to address the goals/outcomes of the child and family in their home and childcare settings.
- We believe parents, teachers and specialists will work together to meet the child's needs throughout daily routines at home or in a childcare setting.
- We believe learning takes place during both child-led and adult-led learning activities.
- We believe functional goals/outcomes should be based on daily routines that occur naturally in the child's environment.
- We believe activities should be based on teaching strategies that are research-based.
- We believe in continually monitoring a child's learning in a variety of ways, and adjusting instruction as necessary in order to make progress.



About our Program

What is Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)?

ECSE is a program provided through River Bend Education District at no cost to families. Special Education is individualized instruction that is delivered to your child based on results from an evaluation process. In Part C (Birth to age 3) your child needs to obtain a qualifying score in one or more of the five developmental domains (cognitive, communication, social, adaptive and motor). There are some situations in which medical conditions and/or informed clinical opinion may qualify your child for service. When your child enters ECSE programming, you will have a team of teachers and therapists available to work with your child. Educational team members may include: an ECSE Teacher, an Occupational Therapist, a Speech-Language Pathologist, a Physical Therapist, a Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, or a Teacher of the Vision Impaired.

What is EQIP

Evidence-based Quality Intervention Practices (EQIP) is an approach to early intervention which incorporates evidence-based practices to build family capacity using coaching interaction practices and to embed intervention into daily routines in the child's natural environment.

River Bend Education District Contact Information

District Phone Number - 507-359-8700

Director of Special Education: Doug Hazen

Special Education Coordinator: Kristen Drill

Parent Involvement

You are your child's best teacher. By including parents, we can build a strong foundation for your child's future by giving everyone a shared interest in every step of your child's development.

Parent Involvement includes but is not limited to:

- Preparing your child so they may be fully engaged and ready to learn.
- Be fully present and engaged throughout the home visit.
- Minimize distractions such as: TV, pets, technology use, and visitors.
- Inform providers of any medical updates or changes/additions of agencies working with child and/or family.
- Provide input or data on your child's IFSP Outcomes.
- Follow through on home visit recommendations.
- Complete Family Outcome Survey when your child transitions to Part B services (after age 3) and/or exits Part C services.
- Collect data on outcomes to show progress toward achieving IFSP outcomes.

ECSE Staff Role

We are here to support you and your child. We will help identify your priorities for your child's development. We will work together to support your child's participation and expression of interests within everyday activities and routines to provide opportunities for learning in their natural environment.

ECSE Staff role includes but is not limited to:

- Work with parents, families, and caregivers to demonstrate and coach skills and techniques needed to achieve the outcomes determined at the IFSP meeting.
- Coordinate communication among family and outside agencies.
- Provide flexible scheduling coordinated with family.
- Provide support and resources for your family.
- Provide ongoing assessment of your child's overall development.
- Collect data along with family input to show progress toward achieving IFSP outcomes.

Confidentiality

Information requested from you is used to enable us to meet your child's needs in an informed and personal matter. No release of information to any other outside agency or person will be made without written permission from you, the parent/guardian. Information obtained will be kept confidential and shared only with staff working with your child for educational reasons or when it is necessary for your child's well-being or safety.

Photograph and Videotaping Policy

ECSE staff may photograph/video students as part of the evaluation/assessment process or for the purpose of staff training. The photograph/video will be used for internal purposes only. Written parental permission will be obtained before photographs or videos are taken.

Health/Absences

When should you contact us to reschedule a home visit due to an illness?

If you child or family members have had the following in the past 24 hours:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more without fever reducing medication
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Rash, lice, ringworm, or scabies that are untreated and contagious to others
- Pink Eye
- Serious cough or significant runny nose
- Strep Throat
- Chicken Pox - until the child is no longer infectious

If for any reason you feel you or your child will not be able to fully participate in their home visit, please contact us immediately to reschedule the session.

Inclement Weather/School Closings

When the River Bend Education District or your local school district is closed due to inclement weather, there will be no home visits for that day. In case of a 2-hour late start, home visits will not take place before 9:30 am. In case of an early release, home visits will not occur after the release time. Please tune in to KNUJ 860 AM or SAM 107.3 FM or area television stations for local school announcements.

Home Visiting Hours

All home visits will occur between the hours of 7:30 am and 5:30 pm. All visits must start by 4:30 at the latest. Should a family need special considerations for occasional visits after 4:30, it will be at the discretion of team members and the ECSE Coordinator.

Mandated Reporting

It is a State of Minnesota law (Statute 626.556 Subdivision 3) that we report all suspected cases of abuse, neglect, endangerment or maltreatment within families enrolled in the ECSE program. All allegations will be reported to Child Protective Services in the county of residence.

What comes next? Moving into Part B

Part B refers to special education and related services which are provided to eligible school-aged children between the ages of 3 and 21.

A transition meeting will be held with your child's IFSP Team when your child is between 2 years, 3 months and 2 years, 9 months of age. The team will determine if an initial Part B evaluation is necessary. If an evaluation is necessary, this process will begin when your child is approximately 2 years, 9 months old. This evaluation will determine whether or not your child qualifies for Part B services. If your child qualifies for Part B services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed by the Team.

Family Outcome Survey

When your child exits Part C ECSE services or transitions to Part B services, your family will receive a family outcome survey. While this is optional, it is highly recommended you complete and return the form in the provided envelope. Your answers will be kept confidential by the Minnesota Department of Education. The information will be used to measure quality of programs and services. We do not receive your answers but please know We value your input!

Children's Development: What to Expect and When to Be Concerned - Resources for Families

Center for Inclusive Child Care <https://www.inclusivechildcare.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Resources for many specific medical diagnoses.

Child Development <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/index.html>

Hearing and Detection <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html>

Autism Spectrum Disorder <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html>

Developmental Disabilities

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/developmentaldisabilities/facts.html>

Developmental Milestones Checklist/Tracking

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

Baby Center <https://www.babycenter.com/>

Help Me Grow MN <https://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/index.htm>

National Association for the Education of Young Children <https://www.naeyc.org/>

Autism Speaks <https://www.autismspeaks.org/>

Healthy Minds Nurturing Young Child's Development

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/healthy-minds-nurturing-your-child-s-development>

Pacer Center - Champions for Children with Disabilities <https://www.pacer.org/>

Help Me Connect MN: A navigator connecting pregnant individuals and families of young children with services in their local communities

<https://helpmeconnectmn.com/>

Tools to Maximize Child Development <https://.pathways.org>

Potential Community Supports for Families

1. Early Childhood Screening
2. Public Libraries
3. Local County Social Services
4. Community Head Start Programs
5. Early Childhood Family Education Programs
6. Early Head Start Programs
7. Local County Public Health Nurses
8. Local Religious Centers
9. Salvation Army
10. Goodwill
11. Child Care Resources and Referral
12. Local Medical Agencies
13. Lutheran Social Services
14. Catholic Charities
15. Child Care Assistance Programs