

## **Does My Child Need Special Education?** **LVPA's Child Find Program**

Parents often know their child's learning strengths and weaknesses best. Parent input is vital in assisting school personnel as we design a special education program which addresses your child's needs. Your child may qualify for special education if:

### **Eligibility**

1. Your child has a physical sensory mental or emotional disability such as intellectual impairment, a hearing impairment, a speech or language impairment, a specific learning disability, deaf-blindness or multiple disabilities  
AND
2. Your child needs special education as determined by a team of qualified people.

Your child must meet both qualifications in order to be eligible for special education. Eligible children have the right to a "free and appropriate public education" at no cost to the parent to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. These students must have an individualized education program (IEP). The IEP is a document that is written and developed by the IEP team that includes the parent of the child.

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, children who have disabilities that substantially limit their participation in or access to school programs, but who do not need specially designed instruction, may qualify for reasonable accommodations. The rules that apply to their education are different from those for special education students who qualify by meeting the two criteria mentioned above.

### **Indications**

Some indications that your child may have a disability and may meet the first requirement of eligibility are:

- Evidence of an emotional disturbance over a long period of time that affects the child's ability to learn
- Consistent problems in getting along with others
- Difficulty communicating
- Difficulty in seeing or hearing that interferes with the ability to communicate
- Health problems that affect educational performance, including attention problems
- Difficulty in performing tasks that require reading, writing, or mathematics

### **Need for Special Education**

Your child may need special help not normally needed by other children in the regular education classroom. This need for special education is the second part of the two-part decision to qualify as a child with a disability.

If your child shows any of the characteristics previously listed, or if you are concerned about your child's progress in school, your child may be referred to the Child Study Team at LVPA and eventually my be referred for a Special Education Evaluation.

### **Evaluation Requests**

Your child may be referred for an evaluation in two ways.

1. You may verbally ask the school to evaluate your child, wherein the school will send you a "Request for Evaluation." Upon receipt of this form, the school will send you a "Permission to Evaluate" form and a notice of parental rights, OR indicate in writing that they decline the request for evaluation.
2. The school may contact you to ask permission to have your child evaluated wherein the school must send you a "Permission to Evaluate" form and a notice of your parental rights. Consent must be given by the parent in writing. LVPA officials may not proceed until written permission is obtained.

### **Example of a request letter from a parent to LVPA**

The following is an example of a letter that you may use to request the evaluation of your child by the Child Study Team or the Educational Support Services department.

Your Name

Your Address

Your phone number

The date

Dear (Principal's name),

I am the parent of (your child's full name) whose date of birth is (month /day / year). My child is in the (number) grade. My child is not doing well in school and I am requesting that an evaluation be carried out to determine what the problems are and how they can be addressed. I understand that I am a member of my child's evaluation team and I wish to provide input to the team. Please let me know how I can participate in the process.

I am looking forward to receiving a notice of parental rights and a "Permission to Evaluate" form for my signature.

Thank you for your time and please contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

**OR**

Contact LVPA's Educational Support Services at 610-868-2971 ext 125

**OR**

Contact a member of the Child Study Team

Mrs. Gwen Ayers at (610) 868-2971 ext 125 or by email at [gayers@lvpa.org](mailto:gayers@lvpa.org)

Mrs. Stephanie Covelle at (610) 868-2971 ext 130 or by email at [scovelle@lvpa.org](mailto:scovelle@lvpa.org)

Mrs. Kelly Bickert at (610) 868-2971 ext 125 ext 144 or by email at [kbickert@lvpa.org](mailto:kbickert@lvpa.org)