



PORTER COUNTY
EDUCATION SERVICES



Preschool Assessment

*We provide a team approach to empower
each student's pathway to success!*

Special Education Learning Facility
750 Ransom Road
Valparaiso, IN 46385
(219) 464-9607 x3 (preschool)
pces.k12.in.us

Preschool Assessment Services

Thank you for your interest in preschool assessment services through Porter County Education Services. We provide educational evaluations for preschool aged children to determine if they meet the eligibility criteria for special education services through the public school system within Porter County in the state of Indiana. We provide three different kinds of educational evaluations:

1. Screening

This is a 2-hour assessment, looking at the areas of;

- ◆ Fine and gross motor
- ◆ Speech and language
- ◆ Cognitive
- ◆ Self-help
- ◆ Social and emotional skills and development

Based upon results of the screening, the public agency will determine whether an initial educational evaluation and/or speech evaluation will be conducted. A team member will meet with you to answer any questions and to gain your permission for the evaluation, if warranted. We can take referrals for screening evaluations from the parent or guardian of the child to be tested. **Children need to be at least 3 years old in order to be tested and must reside in Porter County.**

2. Full Evaluation

This is a 5-hour assessment that takes place over the course of 2 days. This type of evaluation is completed when a child ages out of First Steps early intervention program or when a screening evaluation indicates a need for further testing. We take a more in-depth look at the areas of fine and gross motor, speech and language, cognitive, self-help, and social and emotional skills and development. This assessment is used to determine if the child is eligible for special education services through the public schools. Referrals for these evaluations come from First Steps Service Coordinators or they originate from our screening process.

3. Speech Evaluation

This is approximately a 45-minute assessment in which the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) will assess the child's articulation, fluency and voice. An oral mechanism evaluation will also be completed. As part of the evaluation, a speech sound sample will also be taken. In addition, the SLP will review current academic achievement and social and developmental history form along with medical records. Referrals for these evaluations originate from our screening evaluations.

After the Evaluation ~ Provisions:

After your child has completed her/his full evaluation or speech evaluation, we will send you a copy of the educational evaluation report. About a week after this time, we will meet with you to determine eligibility for any special education services, if warranted. Based on this recommendation, your child may be eligible for developmental preschool or the 'walk-in' speech/language therapy program. Both of these provisions are funded through public education and transportation is available for the developmental preschool program. These two programming services are based on our multidisciplinary team's professional recommendation and the educational services that are offered are based on the need identified through the evaluation and Article 7, Indiana's special education rules.



Preschool Evaluation Team Members

- ◆ School Psychologist
- ◆ Speech and Language Pathologist
- ◆ Educational Diagnostician/Preschool Assessment Facilitator
- ◆ Educational Diagnostician
- ◆ Preschool Assistant

Other Specialists as Needed

- ◆ School Nurse
- ◆ Occupational Therapist
- ◆ Physical Therapist
- ◆ Hearing Impaired Consultant
- ◆ Blind/Low Vision Teacher & Consultant

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do if my child is sick and cannot attend? If your child is ill, running a fever within the last 24 hours or is contagious please call to reschedule 219-464-9607 x3. Your child should be in good health for a reliable outcome and it is important to consider the well being of the other children and staff.

What do I need to bring? You may wish to bring a water bottle for your child. Please bring necessary items to take care of your child if a diaper change is needed.

Do I need to be present for the evaluation? A parent or legal guardian must be available to sign forms to begin the evaluation process. Once that is taken care of, a parent, guardian or assigned representative will remain in the parent waiting area during the evaluation session(s). On occasion, it is necessary for the parent, guardian or assigned representative to remain in the evaluation room with the child during the evaluation.

How long will the testing session last? The screening testing session will last about two hours, and the full evaluation session will last approximately two hours and 30 minutes, over 2 days.

May I bring my other children along on the day(s) of the evaluation? Due to COVID-19 guidelines, only one parent and the child that is being evaluated may be in the testing building.

What are your COVID-19 guidelines? All adults in the testing area are required to wear masks. If your child will tolerate wearing a mask, we encourage her/him to do as well. We are sanitizing the toys and surfaces used between testing sessions.

What if my child cries and will not separate? Our goal is to see how each child performs in an educational setting with a few other children. We encourage the parent to accompany their child into the classroom and then move to the parent waiting area once their child is comfortable. If your child has difficulty calming over time, we will ask you to rejoin your child in the classroom setting.

What will my child do during the evaluation? The evaluation session(s) will consist of play time, an individual testing session(s), and a hearing and vision screening. The full evaluation sessions will also include circle time activities, usually done on the first day of testing. Depending on the needs of the child, staff will be assigned to evaluate the areas of concern expressed at the intake. The core evaluation team consists of a school psychologist, educational diagnostician(s), and a speech and language pathologist. Additional staff will be available as needed (occupational therapist, physical therapist, vision/hearing consultant, nurse). There will usually be two or three additional children present for each session.

When will I find out if my child is eligible for special education services? Once the evaluation has been completed, the team will compile a report that will be sent to you about a week prior to the scheduled case conference. The report will give considerations based on Article 7 guidelines on special education eligibility.

If my child is eligible for special education services, what will happen next? A case conference will be held to review the evaluation report. If the child is eligible for services, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be prepared. Services will begin within 10 school days or by the child's 3rd birthday after your signature has been gained.

How much does this cost? This service is provided by your child's school system (residency verification is required). This is a public school agency that services all of the schools in Porter County. There is no fee for this evaluation.

*****Due to the high number of children having peanut and nut allergies, our school is a nut and peanut free environment.** Please do not bring any food products containing these items into the building. This includes peanut butter, cookies, etc.