

# Early

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAM STAFF CONSISTS OF:**

### **Special Services Program Manager**

Our Program Manager oversees the program in accordance with Federal/State Laws, Tribal/State agencies for children from birth to five years old.

### **Speech -Language Pathologists**

Our Speech-Language Pathologists provide screenings, assessments, and direct speech-language therapy sessions to children who are found eligible to receive services. Children who have speech or language disorders may have difficulty saying the sounds of language, or they may have difficulty understanding and expressing what they hear and say. ECSS speech-language pathologists provide services to children enrolled in a pre-school setting.

### **Occupational Therapist**

Our Occupational Therapist (OT) assists children to improve basic motor functions. For infants and toddlers therapy may include help with the use of their hands, assistance

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with skills for listening and following directions, and social play skills. In a school setting, the OT evaluates a child's abilities, recommends and provides therapy, and helps the child participate in as many school activities as possible.

### **Early Intervention Specialists**

Our Early Intervention (EI) Specialists provide guidance and support to families with concerns about their child's development. EIs offer developmental screenings, monitor and track children's development, and process referrals and evaluations for the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP). EI Specialists also provide in-home education and parent trainings.

### **Special Education Teacher**

The Special Education Teachers assist in providing cognition services to children three to five years old to promote developmental milestones in the areas of: attention-memory, reasoning-academic, and perception-concepts skills in the home and school settings.

### **School Psychologist**

The School Psychologist provides psycho-educational evaluation or additional assessments for children, age 2.9 to 5 years, suspected to have developmental delay or disability.

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### **Administrative Staff**

Are the first to contact the referral source. They assign the referral to the appropriate staff member and work collaboratively to fulfill federal guidelines. They provide support to all ECSS staff and outside providers. They assist in Child Find activities through the community.

## **Contact Information**

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### **Early Childhood Special Services**

**P.O. Box 97  
141 S. Bluebird Rd.  
Sacaton, AZ 85147  
Phone: (520) 562-3882  
Fax: (520) 562-3205**

**Aurora Nevarez,  
Program Manager  
(520) 562-5785**

**Tribal Education Department  
(520) 562-3662**

# Services

## **Gila River Indian Community Early Childhood Special Services**



**Providing services, opportunities and resources to families with young children.**

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## ARE YOU CONCERNED?

Each child is special and develops different skills at his or her own pace. Skills such as walking and talking are also known as Developmental Milestones and they usually occur by certain ages. Watch carefully to see how your child is growing and learning. If you have any concerns about your child's growth or behaviors, seek help early because your child needs you.

## WHO WE ARE

Early Childhood Special Services (ECSS) is a Community program for families with children ages birth to five, who have disabilities and developmental delays. ECSS provides support to families through education and developmental services. They assist your children in reaching their full potential.

## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

### *Birth to Three years*

Referrals are accepted from parents, doctors, Tribal Social Services, collaborative programs and agencies. ECSS will screen your child to see if their development is appropriate for his/her age. Screenings and evaluations

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are at no cost to the family. Following a child's screening, a family may enroll their child to be monitored, or a family service plan may be developed and services will begin.

### *Children 3 to 5 years*

Services are available through your local Community school, Head Start, FACE, or Early Education Center. The family or teacher of a child may request a referral for an evaluation. This may lead to an Individualized Education Program for children who require specialized assistance or support services.

## SERVICES FOR CHILDREN COULD INCLUDE:

- Screenings & assessments, including hearing and vision
- Physical, Occupational, Speech and Language therapy
- Activities geared to develop learning and eating skills
- Activities to help social and emotional development
- Continuing services at age 3 as the child transitions to preschool
- Collaboration with childcare or preschool teachers of enrolled children

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## SERVICES FOR FAMILIES COULD INCLUDE:

- Education and parent trainings
- Access to support groups and family services
- Coordination of district-wide agencies that provide social and health services

## REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN THE PROGRAM PROCEDURES:

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 1997) Parts B & C
- Confidentiality—Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Parental Rights/Procedural Safe guards

## WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT OR DISABILITIES?

- Talk to your child's doctor
- Contact your director of special education at your school
- Call ECSS.

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## REFERRAL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address/Directions to Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mess.: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Referring Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Referring Agency/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Referral \_\_\_\_\_

I understand a representative of GRIC Special Services will be contacting me about this referral.

Referring Person's Signature \_\_\_\_\_