



Child Care Resources Inc.

tip sheet

Ideas and information about child development and early education for parents, professionals and the community-at-large.

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Main Office

4601 Park Road, Suite 500
Charlotte, NC 28209
Main line (704) 376-6697
Fax line (704) 376-7865

Cabarrus County Office

2353 Concord Lake Road, Suite 160
Concord, NC 28025
Training/Main (704) 786-1023
Fax line (704) 786-1034

Union County Office

105-A Cedar Street
Monroe, NC 28110
Training/Main (704) 238-8810
Fax line (704) 238-8811

Website: www.childcareresourcesinc.org

Email: mailbox@childcareresourcesinc.org

Access this and other tip sheets through the CCRI FaxBack Line: **(704) 335-9421**

child care search

Resource & referral service

Mecklenburg County (704) 348-2181
Cabarrus County (704) 786-1024
Union County (704) 238-8800

Children With Special Needs

Do you have concerns about whether or not your child is developing appropriately?

- Is your child developing at a much slower rate than peers?
- Is your child unable physically to perform age appropriate tasks or experiencing extreme coordination problems when compared to peers?
- Does your child seem to be having trouble participating in normal school activities?
- Is your child far behind classmates in terms of language development?
- Is your child's speech extremely difficult to understand or does your child stutter?
- Does your child have an unusual amount of difficulty socializing with classmates?
- Does your child have unusually frequent tantrums or emotional outbursts?
- Does your child have difficulty seeing or hearing consistently?
- Does your child seem to have more trouble paying attention and staying on task than classmates?

In extreme cases these indicators can all be signs of special needs. Since young children tend to develop at different rates and all children exhibit the above-mentioned behaviors to some extent, it may be helpful to discuss your concerns with your child's teacher and/or observe your child with a large group of peers. This way you will have a frame of reference to help you in deciding if your child's behavior or developmental delay warrants further evaluation.

If you suspect your child has special needs you should take your child to a professional and have an assessment done as soon as possible. The earlier children are diagnosed the sooner special therapies and/or treatments can be implemented that will help to either minimize or overcome any problems they may be experiencing.

To have your child assessed and evaluated you can contact:

Mecklenburg County Preschool Services Carlton G. Watkins Center

3500 Ellington Street
Charlotte, NC 28211
(704)336-7130

Carlton G. Watkins Center Preschool Services provides developmental evaluation services to families who are concerned about the development of their young child. Their services can be requested by calling the above phone number from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Assessment services for children under five years of age are provided at no cost to families.

If you have concerns about your child's speech or hearing development specifically you can contact:

The Charlotte Speech and Hearing Center

300 South Caldwell Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704)376-1342

The Charlotte Speech and Hearing Center provides families who are concerned about their child's speech and/or hearing with speech screenings and evaluations, hearing screenings and evaluations, and the appropriate corresponding therapies if necessary. Their services

Children with Special Needs (con't)

can be requested by calling the above phone number from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. on Fridays. Their services are free for children from birth through five years of age. Their fees for older children are calculated on a sliding fee scale.

If your child has special needs you may want to purchase special toys and/or equipment geared towards that specific need. There are many companies that sell adaptive toys and/or equipment, the following is a list of some of these companies and their toll-free phone numbers for ordering catalogs.

- Toys "R" Us
"Toy Guide For Differently-abled Kids"
1-888-333-4108
- Sportime Abilitations Equipment for
Development & Restoration of Physical &
Mental Ability Through Movement
1-800-850-8602
- Enabling Devices Toys for Special Children
1-800-832-8697
- Woodbine House Books
The Special Needs Collection
1-800-843-7323

If you prefer borrowing toys or want to try out some different toys to see what works best for your child, there are toy lending libraries* where you can borrow equipment for a week or two for a small yearly membership fee or for free. Some phone numbers of local toy lending libraries are:

- Child Care Resources Inc.
(704)376-6697
- Carlton G. Watkins Center
(704)336-7130
- The North Carolina Assistive
Technology Project
(704)355-2703

* When calling, please specify that you are interested in the toy lending library.

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