

Comparison of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C and Part B



Part C: Department of Health Early Intervention Section

Infant/Toddler Programs for children birth to age 3

Focus is to support/enhance the family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of their child with a delay or disability.

Services and supports are documented on an Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) and may be provided by a variety of agencies.

Appropriated therapy services are available and usually delivered on a one-to-one basis using a transdisciplinary model. Group therapy services are available depending on the child's and family's identified needs.



Services are usually delivered in the home and/or other "natural environments."

Frequency of services is dependent on the child's and family's identified needs.

Parent to follow-up with strategies in the child's daily activities.

Child and family have a care coordinator.

Special equipment may be purchased by families or loaned to families for use in their home.



Services are available year-round.

Part B: Department of Education Special Education Program

Preschool Programs for children ages 3 to 5

Focus is to support the education needs of a child with a disability.

Special education and related services are documented on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are the responsibility of the DOE.



Appropriate special education and related services are usually embedded in daily classroom routines and activities. Small group, one-to-one. And large group instruction and inclusion with same age peers are available depending on each child's individual needs.



Services are typically delivered on a school campus.

Frequency of services is dependent on the child's educational needs.

Parent to follow-up and support child's learning activities at home.

Child's preschool teacher is usually the care coordinator.

Special equipment is available based on child's needs.

Services follow the regular school calendar, but may include extended school year based on each child's individual needs.