

HELP US TO HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILD

As a parent, you are naturally curious about your child's growth and development. You may find yourself watching the child of a relative or neighbor to determine if your baby is talking when she "should" be or if your son is learning to read as well as other children his age can.

Children of all ages sometimes experience academic, behavioral, physical or health problems which make it difficult for them to learn age appropriate skills or have successful learning in a regular classroom. The Russell County Schools' Special Services Department wants to help you determine if your child may be in need of special education services. Please take a moment to ask yourself the following question, "Do I have a child who"

- "has difficulty talking and pronouncing words properly?"
- "has trouble seeing people and objects?"
- "has difficulty hearing sounds or remains unusually quiet for long periods of time?"
- "moves about with difficulty when crawling, walking or running?"
- "learns slowly or has difficulty understanding directions and assignments?"
- "has trouble playing with other children or getting along with adults and peers?"
- "continues to show reversals in reading and writing beyond age 9?"
- "has other special health problems or medical needs?"

If you can answer "yes" to one or more of the above questions, your child may be in need of special help. Please call the Russell County Schools' Special Services Department at 276-889-6500 and let our staff assist you with your questions.

The Russell County School System is committed to providing a free, appropriate public education for all children between the ages of two through twenty-one who have been identified as eligible for special education and/or related services. Special programs are offered for students identified as:

- Autistic
- Developmentally Delayed
- Learning Disabled
- Intellectually Disabled
- Multiple Disabilities
- Emotionally Disabled
- Visually Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Speech/Language Impaired
- Orthopedically Impaired
- Other Health Impaired

Services can be provided for students needing speech and language therapy. Physical therapy and/or occupational therapy may be provided as a related service.

As a parent, you must be able to recognize a child's needs in order for your child to develop his/her abilities. The earlier that learning, behavioral, physical problems or developmental delays are identified, the sooner a special education program can be developed to enable your child to learn skills to compensate for his/her disability. Again, we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your child.