**Early Childhood **

**Special Education Program**

**WHAT ARE EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS?** ECSE programs provide educational services to special needs children from three through five years of age. The intent of providing services is to minimize the effect of special needs conditions on the child’s future achievement and development. ECSE programs also provide support to parents/caregivers by offering them a wide range of opportunities to become involved in their child’s overall educational programming.

**WHO IS THE PROGRAM FOR?** ECSE programs serve young children who are not developing and learning at the same rate as other children their age. Children who have special education needs may exhibit delays in development areas such as gross motor(crawling, running, jumping, hopping, balance, etc.); fine motor (grasping, printing, use of scissors, eye-hand coordination, ect.); cognitive (understanding, remembering and applying what has been learned);language (speaking and understanding); self-help(dressing skills, self-care activities);social-emotional (behavior, interacting with environment, peers and adults).

Examples of conditions which may be considered as ECSE are: speech and language delays, physical handicaps, emotional disturbance, cognitive delays, hearing impairments and/or visual disabilities, autism, significant developmental delays, traumatic brain injury.

**HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?** ECSE programs can provide services to the child at school, daycare, home, or preschool setting. The child’s specific program is determined by his/her individual needs and is outlined in an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Educators and parents develop the IEP through a team effort. The progress of the child is monitored on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. In addition, the parents are invited to attend a formal IEP meeting, which is held annually to review the child’s progress.

**WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?** Among the services which may be provided to children in Early Childhood Special Education Programs are: speech/language, physical therapy, occupational therapy, vision and hearing services, and adaptive phy.ed. and transportation. These services are provided t children by ECSE Teachers, Speech/Language Therapists, Physical and Occupational Therapists, Adaptive Phy Ed. Teachers, Teachers of the Visually and Hearing Impaired and Instructional Aides.