

What About Three-Year Old Children and Four Year Old Children that are not NC Pre-K Eligible?

Three year old children are accepted into the preschool program if they have a documented delay that meets the criteria for placement in the Exceptional Children's Preschool Program.

For three year old children, classroom placement is made through the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) process. This means the child must be evaluated, determined eligible by a committee that includes the parent, and an IEP developed. The IEP will list the strengths and needs of the student, the student's goals, and the least restrictive environment (LRE) for the child to receive Exceptional Children services.

Possible LRE placements are: (not a complete list)

Regular Early Childhood Program - placement in a classroom where 50% or more of the children are typically developing.

Separate Class – placement in a classroom where more than 50% of the children have IEPs

Service Provider Location – child receives services as a visiting student. For example the parent would bring the child to the school for speech therapy services only and then the child would return home with the parent.

A child that meets the age requirement (4 years old by August 31st) of the NC Pre-K program but is not determined eligible for the NC Pre-K program due to income may still attend the classroom as a student with special needs. The same process described above for the 3 year old child would be followed to make this determination.