What is Child Find?
Child Find is a term used for the process of locating, identifying, and evaluating children with disabilities who may need special education and related services. A child may be identified by Child Find and parents may be asked if the Child Find system can evaluate their child. Parents can also contact Child Find located in the Office of Special Education in Worcester County Public Schools and ask that their child be evaluated.

How is a child referred?
A child from 3 through 21 years of age, not currently receiving special education or related services through Worcester County Public Schools may be referred. A referral can be made by anyone who suspects that a child may have special needs, a delay in development, or a disability. Services are provided at no cost to the family.

What are disabilities?
Disabilities can include: physical disabilities such as vision, hearing or motor impairments; speech and language impairments, autism, learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injury and other health impairments.

What services may be provided to children found eligible?
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Special Education Instruction
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Assistive Technology Services
- Psychological Evaluation

Who do you contact?
For a child enrolled in a Worcester County Public School, contact the school principal.
For a child not enrolled in a Worcester County Public School, contact:
Stacey Russell, Special Education Facilitator
6270 Worcester Highway, Newark, MD 21841
Phone 410-632-5034  Fax 410-632-3867

WCPS does not assess or assign children to special education programs and services on the basis of natural origin, race, sex, linguistic, religious, or cultural background.
The first step is to contact Child Find located in Worcester County Public Schools Office of Special Education at 410-632-5034.

Referral information is recorded. Then, the child is referred to their residence school where screening and assessment procedures will be initiated.

Classroom observation and possible screenings are conducted. At the screening meeting the IEP team, including the parent reviews the referral and screening information to determine if formal assessments are necessary.

If the IEP team reviews the data and suspects a disability, formal evaluations will be administered. The IEP team will reconvene to review assessment reports and determine eligibility.

After the determination of eligibility meeting, if the child is found eligible to receive special education or related services, individual needs are identified. Then, an IEP is developed and appropriate services are implemented.