



## Overview

Elwyn SEEDS delivers intake services and performs multidisciplinary evaluations (MDE) for all children referred for preschool early intervention services in Philadelphia. Families that are concerned that their child (3 years to the age of beginners) is experiencing a developmental delay or may have a disability should contact Elwyn SEEDS to request a multidisciplinary evaluation. The multidisciplinary evaluation is an individualized process to determine the educational strengths and needs of the child and family. The process will determine eligibility for Early Intervention supports and services based on developmental delay and/or disability. The evaluation is performed by a team that consists of family members and an agency representative; the make up of the team members may vary as appropriate to the child's and family's needs. If the child is determined to be eligible for services, the information from the evaluation will help the Early Intervention team to know what is important to the family. A multidisciplinary evaluation only occurs with the written consent of the child's parent or guardian.

The evaluation looks at all areas of concern as presented by the family as well as any other areas that the MDE team determines to be appropriate. The evaluation consists of several parts: an extensive interview with the parent or guardian and others designed to respect the family's concerns, values, interests and priorities; a Developmental checklist, a Standardized Test of Development (basic skills, speech and language), a play-based Criterion Reference test; a review of the child's records and other screenings if needed. The multidisciplinary team determines whether the child needs early intervention special education and related services. The findings are contained in the Evaluation Report (ER), which is sent to the parent or guardian within 60 days of the written consent to perform the evaluation.

SEEDS multidisciplinary evaluations are performed at our location at 4025 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia, easily reached from any part of the city and convenient to public transportation. Arrangements to perform the evaluation at another location may be made if it is not possible for the family to travel to the Elwyn SEEDS offices.

## Our Commitment

SEEDS is committed to maximizing each child's unique potential. Our program is family-centered and focuses on the concerns, priorities, and resources of the family and the individual strengths and needs of the child. It takes into consideration the crucial, constant role that the family plays in a child's life. Families are treated as valuable partners and are encouraged to participate at all stages of decision making. The family and the special education staff work together as a team to plan an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that will address the child's educational needs. SEEDS programs and services are based on best practices of early childhood education and development, special education, and interagency collaboration. Families and professionals work together to create a framework for successful learning throughout a child's life.

[www.seeds.elwyn.org](http://www.seeds.elwyn.org)

Revised 10/11

Contact Us

SEEDS Intake  
215-222-8054

## Program Services

Children grow and learn at different rates. Children between the ages of 3 and 5 who do not meet developmental targets may be eligible for preschool special education to help maximize their potential for learning. The services provided are based upon the individual needs of each child and are provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE) appropriate to meet those needs. The SEEDS staff consults with parents and service providers throughout the process.

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) can be provided in a variety of settings, including:

- child care center
- preschool
- Head Start
- child's home
- other community setting
- early intervention center, including Autistic support class, vision support class, hearing support class, early intervention in specialized classes, early intervention with opportunities for integration with typically developing peers, medically fragile class, or approved private school.

The services each child receives are documented in an Individual Education Plan and may include any or all of the following:

- speech and language therapy
- special instruction
- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- vision and hearing services
- identified family services
- other services, as necessary

## Certifications

SEEDS' subcontracted agencies are certified by one or more of the following:

- Department of Public Welfare
- Keystone STARS
- National Association of the Education of Young Children Accreditation
- Department of Education Private Academic School License
- Pennsylvania Department of Education Approved Private School License