



## Ensuring Informed Consent

### (Referral Packet)

Berks County Intermediate Unit  
Preschool Early Intervention Program

Dear Parent,

**This program is a Public Special Education for preschool age children. The law requires this program ensure you are making an informed decision:**

- By signing the Permission-To-Evaluate, you are asking this program to determine if your child has an eligible disability and is in need of Preschool Special Education.
- Disability categories include: Mental retardation, hearing impairments (including deafness), speech or language impairments, visual impairments (including blindness), serious emotional impairments, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, or developmental delay
- The ***Procedural Safeguards*** contains additional information

**You need to know that if your child is found eligible for Preschool Special Education, it means:**

- Your child's public school career/record begins
- Your child becomes protected under the laws of special education
- Your child gains specific rights regarding his/her education and you have specific rights as parents to participate in the evaluation, identification, and development of programming for your child
- A key right your child gains is the right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) as long as he/she remains eligible
- Participation in Preschool Special Education programs is voluntary, however:
  - Once your child is determined eligible for these Special Education services, your child remains eligible for Special Education Services while progressing through the public education system
  - Your child remains eligible until a re-evaluation determines that he/she no longer needs special education services:
    - Even if you decide to refuse services
    - Even if you decide to send your child to a private school
    - Even if you relocate

**The State and Federal Special Education Laws are written to ensure a child's right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is protected. That means:**

- When your child is eligible to transition into school-age programs, this program is required to:
  - Notify your school district that your child is currently eligible for Preschool Special Education services (even if you have chosen to refuse services)
  - Provide your school district with your child's records to enable them to:
    - Determine if your child will continue to need Special Education Services in the school-age program
    - Plan a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and have it in place when your child starts

### Parent Rights

- As a Parent, you have limited right to request that no information be shared with your school district until the transition year (one year before your child is eligible for kindergarten)
- During the transition year, this program is required by law to provide the school district with your child's educational records to ensure the child's right to continuing Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is protected

Please refer to the ***Procedural Safeguards*** for additional information.