

Early Childhood Special Education Educational Environments

The following provides guidance to districts in determining the appropriate Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) educational environment category for each child. **These educational environments do not replace the placement decisions that are made by the IEP team and documented on the IEP.**

Code	Educational Environment	Description
00A4	In regular early childhood program 10+ hours and receives majority of sped services in regular program	Children with disabilities receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program (and the child attends a regular early childhood program at least 10 hours per week)
00A5	In regular early childhood program 10+ hours and receives majority of sped services in another location	Children with disabilities receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location (and the child attends a regular early childhood program at least 10 hours per week)
00A6	In regular early childhood program less than 10 hours and receives majority of sped services in regular program	Children with disabilities receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program (and the child attends a regular early childhood program less than 10 hours per week)
00A7	In regular early childhood program less than 10 hours and receives majority of sped services in another location	Children with disabilities receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location (and the child attends a regular early childhood program less than 10 hours per week)
00B1	Separate class	Children with disabilities who attend a special education program in a class with less than 50% nondisabled children. (Do not include children who also attend a regular early childhood program.)
00B2	Separate school	Children with disabilities who receive special education and related services in public or private day schools designed specifically for children with disabilities. (Do not include children who also attend a regular early childhood program.)
00B3	Residential facility	Children with disabilities who receive special education and related services in publicly or privately operated residential schools or residential medical facilities on an inpatient basis. (Do not include children who also attend a regular early childhood program.)
00B4	Home	Children with disabilities who receive special education and related services in the principal residence of the child's family or caregivers, and who do not attend an early childhood program or a special education program provided in a separate class, separate school, or residential facility. Include children who receive special education both at home and in a service provider location. The term caregiver includes babysitters.
00B5	Service provider location	Children with disabilities who receive all of their special education and related services from a service provider, and who do not attend an early childhood program or a special education program provided in a separate class, separate school, or residential facility. Do not include children who also receive special education at home. Children who receive special education both in a service provider location and at home should be reported in the Home category.

Determination of the Education Environment for children in Early Childhood Special Education:

Use the following decision rules to determine which educational environment to report for each child.

1. The first factor to consider is whether the child is attending a **regular early childhood program**, as defined below, regardless of whether the child receives special education services in the early childhood program and regardless of whether the IEP team determined the early childhood program was necessary in order for the child to receive a free appropriate public education.

Children attending regular early childhood programs are then classified into one of two subcategories depending on the number of hours the child attends the regular early childhood program. If the child attends a regular early childhood program at least 10 hours per week, report the child in 00A4 if the child is receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program. Report the child in 00A5 if the child is receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location.

If the child attends a regular early childhood program less than 10 hours per week, report the child in 00A6 if the child is receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program. Report the child in 00A7 if the child is receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location.

Early childhood program: A program that includes at least 50 percent nondisabled children. Early childhood programs include, but are not limited to:

- Head Start;
- Private preschools;
- Integrated classrooms (only if at least 50 percent of the children are nondisabled);
- Preschool classes offered to an eligible pre-kindergarten population by the public school system; and
- Group child development center or child care.

Attendance at an early childhood program need not be funded by IDEA, Part B funds in order to be reported for purposes of educational environments for child count.

2. If the child does not attend a regular early childhood program at all, the next factor to consider is whether the child attends a **special education program**, as defined below. If so, report the child in category 00B1, 00B2, or 00B3 according to the location of the special education program. Report the child in one of these environments even if the child also receives special education at home or in a service provider location.

Special education program: A program that includes less than 50 percent nondisabled children. Special education programs include, but are not limited to, special education and related services provided in:

- 00B1: Special education classrooms (including classrooms that include less than 50 percent nondisabled children) in
 - regular school buildings;
 - trailers or portables outside regular school buildings;
 - child care facilities;
 - hospital facilities on an outpatient basis;
 - other community-based settings;
- 00B2: Separate schools (public or private day schools designed specifically for children with disabilities); and
- 00B3: Residential facilities (public or private residential schools or residential medical facilities on an inpatient basis).

3. Home: If the child attends neither a regular early childhood program nor a special education program, the next factor to consider is whether the child receives some or all of his/her special education services in the **home**. If the child receives any of his/her special education services in the home, report the child in category 00B4.
4. Service provider location or some other location not in any other category: If the child attends neither a regular early childhood program nor a special education program, and if the child does not receive any special education services in the home, report the child in category 00B5. Service provider locations include, but are not limited to:
 - Private clinicians' offices;
 - Clinicians' offices located in school buildings;
 - Hospital facilities on an outpatient basis.

Examples of Education Environments for Children in Early Childhood Special Education:

Note: The numbers below refer to the four factors or decision rules above.

Example A: A child attends a local preschool three days a week for three hours. The child receives speech therapy twice a week for one hour in the therapist's office at the school district.

1. Is the child attending a regular early childhood program? Yes.
 - How many hours per week does the child attend the regular early childhood program? 9
 - Where are the majority of the special education services provided? Not in the regular early childhood program, so at some other location (speech therapist's office)

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: 00A7: Attending a regular early childhood program for less than 10 hours per week, with the majority of special education services in a location other than the regular early childhood program

Example B: A child attends a local preschool four days a week for three hours. The child receives speech therapy twice a week for 30 minutes while at the preschool.

1. Is the child attending a regular early childhood program? Yes.
 - How many hours per week does the child attend the regular early childhood program? 12
 - Where are the majority of the special education services provided? In the regular early childhood program

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: 00A4: Attending a regular early childhood program for at least 10 hours per week, with the majority of special education services provided in the regular early childhood program

Example C: A child attends a local preschool four days a week for three hours. The child receives speech therapy twice a week for 30 minutes while at the preschool. The child receives other special education services in the home for a total of two hours each week.

1. Is the child attending a regular early childhood program? Yes.
 - How many hours per week does the child attend the regular early childhood program? 12
 - Where are the majority of the special education services provided? At home

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: 00A5: Attending a regular early childhood program for at least 10 hours per week, with the majority of special education services provided in some location other than the regular early childhood program (home).

Example D: A child attends the local school district's ECSE program four days a week for three hours. The child also attends a local preschool one afternoon a week for two hours and receives no special education services there.

1. Is the child attending a regular early childhood program? Yes.
 - How many hours per week does the child attend the regular early childhood program? 2
 - Where are the majority of the special education services provided? In the ECSE program, so not in the regular early childhood program

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: 00A7: Attending a regular early childhood program for less than 10 hours per week, with the majority of special education services in a location other than the regular early childhood program

Example E: A child attends the local school district's ECSE classroom four days a week for three hours. The ECSE classroom is housed in a building that is physically separated from the elementary building. The child does not attend a regular early childhood program for any amount of time.

1. Is the child attending a regular early childhood program? No
2. Is the child attending a special education program? Yes
 - Is the program a separate class, separate school or a residential facility? Separate class. Note: "Separate school" refers to programs similar to the Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled so would not be the appropriate choice in this case even though the classroom is in a separate building.

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: 00B1: Separate class

Example F: A child receives speech services in the speech therapist's office three times a week for one hour. The child is at home the rest of the time and does not attend a regular or special education program for any amount of time.

1. Is the child attending a regular early childhood program? No
2. Is the child attending a special education program? No
3. Is the child receiving special education services at home? No
4. Is the child receiving special education services at a service provider or other location? Yes

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: 00B5: Service provider location