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Early childhood is the time in a child’s life before they begin school full time.

Getting ready to learn is the focus of these years and understanding your child’s needs. If your child is older than 3, your local school system offers Special Education services to help your child succeed in school. To connect with your local school system, visit the Virginia Department of Education's [Virginia School Directories](#).

Community-based supports may also be available. To learn more about state programs and supports in your local community, visit IFSP's "Resources for Families" webpage or contact your local [CSB/BHA](#). To find out about supports for children with special health care needs, visit the [Virginia Department of Health Care Connection for Children](#) and [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment \(EPSDT\)](#).

Planning now can help give your child the best possible start to prepare them for the next stages of life, and help them reach their vision for an inclusive, productive, full life in the future.

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