

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION SERVICES

Special instruction services are provided by special educators who have a degree in special education & professional experience working with developmentally delayed children. The special educator may use a standardized or criterion-referenced tool, such as the Hawai'i Developmental Charts, to assess the cognitive & socio-emotional strengths & needs of the child.

Special education is provided either individually or in small groups. The goal is to help the child develop cognitive & socio-emotional skills necessary for participation in early intervention programs & preschools, & for later success in school. This involves focussing on the child's strengths & goals and selecting toys, equipment, & environmental/social arrangements to encourage his/her participation. Consultation to families & early intervention therapists supports their understanding of how best to maximize a child's engagement and development in play. For example, parents are shown appropriate toys and how to capture & maintain the child's interest.



"One of the fun things about my job is seeing the babies grow and develop. Sometimes you can see it happen as you watch, it just goes "click!" And it makes sense. They understand and/or can do the skill we've been working on." - Early Intervention Special Educator