

Appropriate Instruction

Before moving forward with a special education evaluation this information should be discussed, as it is inappropriate to refer a student for a special education evaluation if the primary cause of their learning problems are due to a lack of instruction in reading or math or limited English proficiency.

Appropriate Instruction*	
Appropriate instruction means that the instruction and interventions provided were scientifically research based and practiced in the manner that was developed so as to ensure high learning rates for most students.	
A student must not be found to be a student with a disability if the determinant factor for their learning difficulty is:	Things to consider in the determination of appropriate instruction. A critical hallmark of appropriate instruction is that progress is systematically monitored and analyzed to determine effectiveness of instruction and responsiveness to interventions.
Lack of appropriate instruction in reading.	<p>Reading instruction must have consisted of instruction in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phonemic awareness. ▪ Phonics. ▪ Vocabulary development. ▪ Reading fluency, including oral reading skills. ▪ Reading comprehension. <p>If attendance records indicate that the student was not present during the majority of the instructional time, this would factor into a "lack of appropriate instruction."</p>
Lack of appropriate instruction in math.	<p>Math instruction and curriculum must have consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Math calculation. ▪ Math problem solving. ▪ Conceptual understanding. <p>If attendance records indicate that the student was not present during the majority of the instructional time, this would factor into a "lack of appropriate instruction."</p>
Limited English proficiency.	<p>Consider proficiency in English and in the student's native language, amount of time in the country, level of education in the student's native country, etc.</p> <p>If, in spite of appropriate accommodations and interventions, the student's learning difficulties persist, then this factor is ruled out.</p>

***Preschool aged students** – Appropriate instruction may not be applicable since the child may NOT have attended any program(s) outside of the home. In these situations, teams should ask parents and/or caregivers about the child's exposure to developmentally appropriate activities. These activities may include but are not limited to "reading books," singing songs, reciting nursery rhymes, playing with manipulative, counting aloud, etc.