



## Preschool Severe Delay...What's That?

Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) are primarily designed for K-12 students but also extend to preschoolers with disabilities under the Preschool Severe Delay (P-SD) category. This category provides funding support to ensure these young learners receive appropriate educational opportunities. Here is what you need to know.

### ESA Categories

ESA categories determine funding based on the type and severity of a student's disability. This ensures that each child receives tailored support. Categories include disabilities like Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), severe intellectual disability, hearing impairment, and others. The funding amount varies depending on the impact of the disability.

### The Preschool Severe Delay Category

Preschool Severe Delay (P-SD) categorization applies to preschoolers who perform significantly below average on norm-referenced tests in areas such as cognitive, physical, communication, social, or adaptive development. These children require specialized educational interventions to foster their development.

### Who Qualifies?

Here are the steps to qualify for ESA under the P-SD category:

1. **Evaluation:** First, your child will undergo a thorough evaluation to determine if they have a disability and how severe it is. To learn how to get your kiddo evaluated, check out this [article](#)! Or, if your kiddo is from the ages of 0-3, check out this [article](#)! This evaluation includes tests that compare your child's abilities to those of other children their age, as well as feedback from you, the parent.
2. **Criteria:** To qualify for the Preschool Severe Delay category, your child must show that they perform significantly below average in one or more areas of development like cognitive development, physical development, communication development, social or emotional development, and adaptive development. This is determined by comparing their performance to what is typical for children their age. The evaluation team considers all the information they gather to decide if your child meets the criteria.
3. **Transition:** If your child qualifies under the Preschool Severe Delay category, they will receive ESA funding under this specific category until they turn five years old. At that point, they will move into a different ESA category that matches their specific diagnosed disability.

ESA's Preschool Severe Delay category ensures that preschoolers with significant developmental challenges receive the necessary financial support for their education. This funding facilitates access to specialized services and resources crucial for their growth and future educational success.

If you have any questions or need help navigating this, feel free to reach out to us at [hello@loveyourschool.org](mailto:hello@loveyourschool.org)! We want to help!