SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Preschool Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

**The least restrictive environment is the placement or setting that fits your child's needs and allows them to make appropriate educational progress where they are educated alongside children without disabilities as much as possible.**

**What types of settings may be available for preschool age children?**

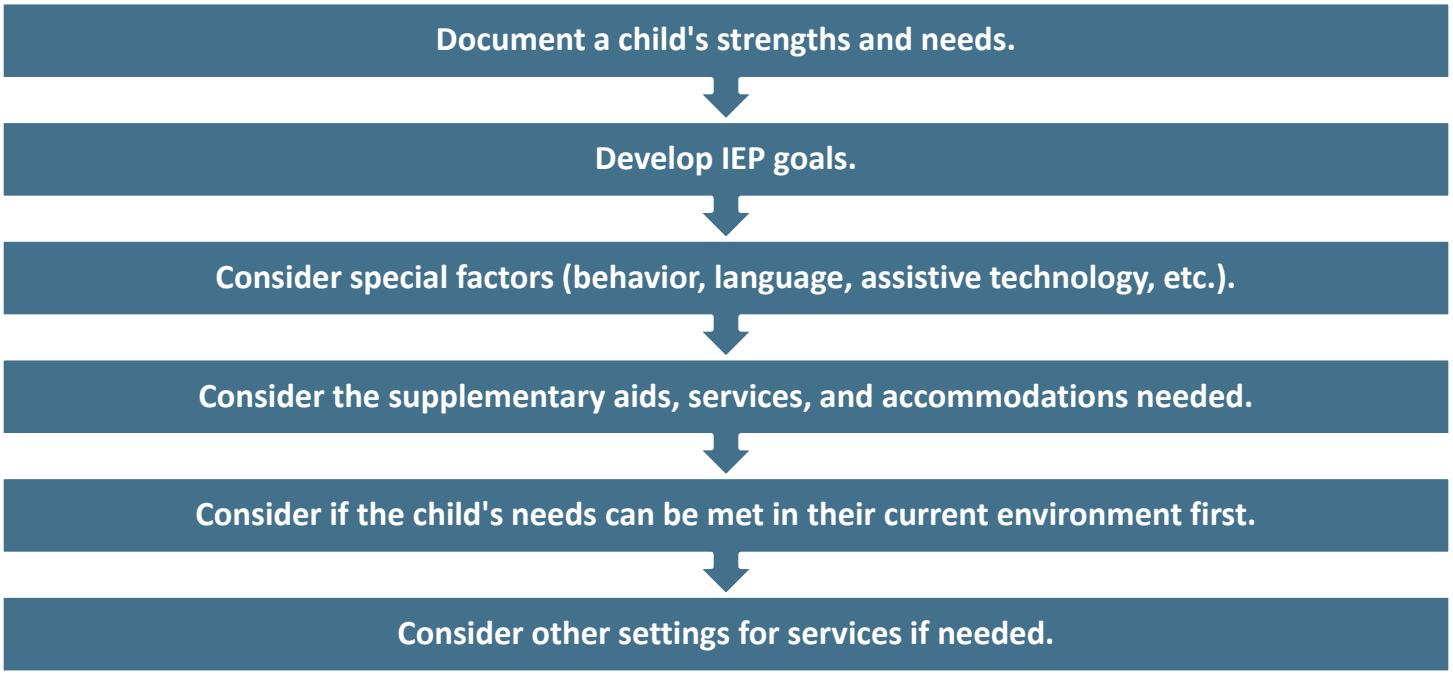
- General Education Preschool Classroom
- Special Education Classroom
- Special Education School
- Home Environment
- Hospital or Other Institution

Examples of each setting include, but are not limited to:

- General Education Preschool Classroom
  - Public School 4K
  - Head Start
  - Community Preschool
  - Childcare center
- Special Education Classroom
  - Special classroom for most or all of the day
  - Time in both special education and general education classrooms
- Special Education School
  - Public special education school (this would be a separate school than the one your child would normally attend if they were not identified as a having a disability)
- Home Environment
  - Caregiver's home
  - Family member's home

- Hospital or Other Institution
    - Hospital
    - Residential treatment facility

**What is the process for deciding placement during the IEP meeting?**




**Things to Remember:**

- Placement is a team decision.
- As part of the team, the parent is involved in the decision.
- Parents may want to consider inviting those who know their child well to the IEP meeting, such as the child's Part C service coordinator or related service providers.
- Decisions about placement must be made every year.
- Placement is not permanent; the IEP team can come together and discuss if changes need to be made at any time.
- All placement decisions are based on the individual child, their strengths and needs, and the least restrictive environment in which they will make progress.