

An Overview of the Transition Process From Early Supports and Services to Preschool Special Education

For More In Depth Information Contact: The Parent Information Center ~ www.picnh.org ~ (603) 224-7005 or (800) 947-7005 or email info@parentinformationcenter.org

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Referral

With written permission, when the child is 30-32 months, or younger, if appropriate, the ESS Service Coordinator will send the local school district notice that the child may be eligible for special education. This process is known as a referral.

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Decision Making Meeting (Disposition of Referral)

After the school receives a referral, they must schedule a meeting, including the parents, within 15 calendar days. The Individual Education Program (IEP) team meets to determine if the child qualifies or if the child needs further evaluation for special education. Written parental permission is needed before the school can evaluate.

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Evaluation

If the team determines that they need more information about the child to determine if they will qualify for special education, they may want to do some evaluation. After getting written parental permission, the school has 45 days to complete the testing. Sometimes further evaluation isn't necessary to determine eligibility.



Transition Conference

At least 90 days before the child turns 3, the ESS service coordinator will hold a transition conference with the family and the school or community program. The purpose of this conference is to update the child's transition plan in the IFSP, and review program options from the child's birthday to the end of the school year. This meeting can be combined with the disposition of referral meeting or can be a separate meeting.

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Determination of Eligibility

Based on the information provided by ESS and the parent, along with any school evaluations, the IEP team determines if the child is eligible for special education and a disability classification. To be eligible the child's disability must negatively impact their educational performance. For preschool children, consideration should be given to how their disability impacts them in typical preschool activities.

5

Development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Within 30 days after a child is found eligible for special education, the IEP team meets to develop the IEP. The IEP is reviewed/ revised annually, and must be in place at the start of each school year. The parent has 14 days to sign the IEP. They may choose to agree, agree with exceptions or disagree.

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Determination of Educational Placement

After the IEP has been signed by the parent & the school district, the IEP team determines the child's educational placement to implement the IEP. Placement options may include a variety of settings but must be in the child's Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). LRE means the child will be educated in the regular classroom unless their needs cannot be met in that setting.



Some Additional Parental Rights

- To have a signed IEP in place on the child's 3rd birthday
- To invite ESS Service Coordinator
- Participate in all meetings as a member of the IEP team
- Give or withhold written consent
- Access their child's educational records
- Be notified about important decision regarding their child's education (Written Prior Notice)
- 10 days written notice of IEP meetings
- Receive information in a way that is understandable
- Be provided with an interpreter or translator, if needed
- File a complaint, request mediation, request due process hearing or a neutral conference