

# Transitioning from Early Intervention Services to Preschool Services



There is a lot that happens when a child turns three. Your child may be going to, or transitioning to a new environment.. Transition is the events or activities that happen when someone moves from one program to another and ends up in a new setting. At this age the main transition is from Early Intervention Services into Preschool Services, and the transition should be as smooth as possible. Programs should work together to make sure that the child has what is needed to access a Free, Appropriate Public Education.



Parents and caregivers will have the chance to discuss transition at a Transition Meeting that should happen no later than 90 days before your child's third birthday. If your child is eligible for preschool special education and related services, parents have the option to continue with an extended IFSP, or transition to an IEP (See our Fact Sheet on "Extended IFSP" for more information).

Here are some things to think about before the meeting and to ask your team:

- What are my hopes, dreams, and concerns about future programs and services?
- What programs and services are available for our child in our community? Am I able to visit them to get a better idea of what these programs look like?
- Are there other advocacy or support groups I should know about?
- What transition activities are available for our family?
- How can my local Family Support Services help me?
- Do I know about the legal requirements to building an IEP for preschool or another community-based program?
- How are preschool services different than what my child got in early intervention?

As always, keep the lines of communication open. You will know the transition to this new environment is going well by seeing your child interact and play with adults and peers in their new setting. Children can also have those positive experiences by knowing that you, their parent, is there to support them.

For more information on what transition looks like, visit this link to view a 1-page handout with a short video clip of a child during transition.

[Transition Practice Guides for Families](#)

Source: [MSDE Family Guide to Early Childhood Transitions, Birth to Kindergarten](#)



No later than 90 days before age 3

Before age 3

If your child is NOT eligible

A transition planning meeting happens to see if your child still needs services and support.



Hold an IEP meeting to see if your child is eligible for preschool special education and related services



Your local Infants and Toddlers Program can continue services until age 3



If your child IS eligible

You have a choice. Before your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, you can choose one pathway

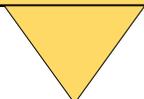


Your family says "yes" to continue services in an Extended IFSP

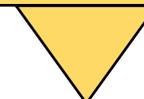
or



Your family says "no" to IFSP services and then considers services through an Individualized Education Program or an IEP



The IFSP is revised



An IEP is developed