



Transition to Preschool

A guide to understanding the transition process in an effort to support families and young children.

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Preparing for the transition process

- Children transition from Infant/Toddler (0-3) services **ON** their third birthday.
- Children transition from Preschool EI services at the minimum *age of beginners* (the age determined by each school district for admission into that district's first grade).
- There are several applicable laws that regulate transition in early Intervention.
 - **IDEA 2004 Parts B and C**
 - **PA Act 212 (Early Intervention Services System Act)**
 - **Pennsylvania EI Services, Chapter 4226**
 - **Pennsylvania EI Services Chapter 14, Special Education and Programs**
- Children may also transition from the Infant Toddler program when they no longer meet the eligibility requirements and there are established steps that must be taken when this is the case.
- It is critical that transition steps be embedded into the IFSP and that parents are included in discussions from the beginning.

The Calendar of Transition Events!



- The process should begin early so that the family is provided with a *“seamless system of early intervention.”*
- A transition meeting must take place at least 90 days prior to the child’s third birthday.
- The meeting cannot take place more than nine months prior to the child’s third birthday.
- If the initial transition meeting occurs six or more months prior to the toddler’s third birthday, the transition plan shall be updated at least quarterly from the time of the transition meeting
- Transition planning should be clearly embedded within the IFSP.
- In the case of a child who may not be eligible for EI Preschool services, reasonable efforts to convey a meeting to discuss the availability of other community supports or activities that may be beneficial to the child must be made.

The Calendar of Transition Events!



- If the initial transition meeting occurs six or more months prior to the toddler's third birthday, the transition plan shall be updated at least quarterly from the time of the transition meeting
- Letters of invitation must be sent to the family, Preschool EI program and others who may be participating no later than 30 days before the scheduled transition meeting date; all of those participating, however, may agree to meet within shorter timelines.
- Children who may be eligible for EI services and are within 90 days of their third birthday are referred to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit for their initial evaluation, however, if the child qualifies for services, the Infant/Toddler program is responsible for funding the services and a determination is made as to which agency will provide the services, as determined by the Local Interagency agreement.
- If a child has been receiving Infant/Toddler services and has met developmental milestones resulting in no longer being eligible, a planning meeting must take place no more than 15 days from when the child is determined to be no longer eligible.

The Calendar of Transition Events!



- If a parent disagrees with the eligibility determination all appropriate procedural safeguards shall be reviewed, discussed with, and made available to the family upon request.
- If a family disagrees with the determination and requests a due process hearing, an independent evaluation can be conducted at no cost to the family to assist in the resolution of the disagreement.

So...What really happens at transition?



- A child who is eligible for preschool Early Intervention Services will transition on his/her third birthday. The child can only be seen on or after his/her third birthday with a pre-approved IU request that has been authorized and communicated [by the BARC Program Supervisor].
- The family will have signed a form that allows release of information to the Preschool Evaluation team.
- As a child's third birthday approaches, an IU team will evaluate the child, write an Evaluation Report (ER), and make recommendations that may lead to the development of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the child.
- The evaluation may take place during an Infant/Toddler Early Intervention session, at the child's home, at a designated preschool location, or any combination of these.
- The IU team may ask for information from the current Infant/Toddler team.

So...What really happens at transition?



- If requested by the family, a 0-3 team member may accompany the family to their child's IEP meeting. His/her role is only to simply respond to questions that are asked by the IEP team regarding present levels, progress, skill development and recommended strategies.
- An identified member of the Infant/Toddler team will have completed exit data **at least** two weeks but within two months (60 days) prior to the child's third birthday and will have delivered this [to the BARC Program Supervisor] who will enter it into OUNCE online
- The exit data **MUST** be entered into OUNCE online **PRIOR** to the child's third birthday because the BSU Service Coordinator must exit the child from the Infant/Toddler database **ON** their third birthday.
- The IU Evaluation team should have access to the exit data.

“Transition Support” means...

Good communication that includes:

- Timely planning as a child approaches age 3
- Multiple conversations with the family and sending team members
- Making sure each team member understands the steps in the process
 - * The child’s strengths, needs and progress
 - * Concerns of the family
 - * Eligibility requirements
 - * Possible transition outcomes