

Transition from Early Intervention to Special Education Preschool Services in North Carolina

The transition from Early Intervention to Preschool Special Education Services can create feelings of excitement and uncertainty. Starting around your child's second birthday your child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team, which includes you as the parent/guardian, will begin to develop a plan for transitioning your child from Early Intervention services to Special Education Preschool Services or other appropriate services. The plan will include timelines that will map out the transition process. [A Parent's Guide to the Infant-Toddler and Preschool Programs](#) has lots of information that can help you prepare for this transition. The table below may help everyone involved with this transition to understand the process so that it is as smooth as possible.



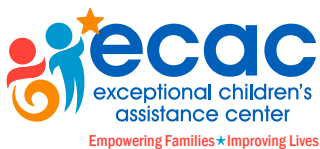
When?	Who is Responsible?	What May Happen?
As early as 9 months before your child's 3rd birthday, but no later than 3 months before the 3rd birthday	Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA)	<p>Transition Planning Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review your child's outcomes on the IFSP, including transition planning activities. • Share information about your family's concerns and priorities. • Talk about the range of service options that may be available to your family and child after the age 3. • You may be asked to give consent for your child to receive certain evaluations or assessments to help determine eligibility for these programs and services. • Schedule a Referral Meeting.
Within 3 months of your child's 3rd birthday	Local Education Agency (LEA) (Your local school district.)	<p>Referral Meeting / Evaluation Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing data/evaluations. • Discuss student's strengths and challenges (reasons for referral). • See examples of areas of strengths and challenges on the Special Education Preschool Referral Form. • If the team agrees to do evaluations, the family will sign consent forms. • Determine why certain evaluations will be done and discuss when and how they will be completed. • The team may determine that evaluations will not be conducted based on the review of existing data. If the team decides not to conduct an evaluation, the special education referral ends and the reasons for this decision must be provided to the family in writing.

When?	Who is Responsible?	What May Happen?
Within 3 months of your child's 3rd birthday	Local Education Agency (LEA) (Your local school district.)	Preschool Services Eligibility Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and explain evaluation reports. Discuss eligibility for special education services. If found eligible, explain Area of Eligibility and that needs drive services. Write the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or schedule another meeting to develop the IEP before the child's third birthday. If the family declines services or the child is not found eligible, discuss other options available in the community.
If your child is eligible, an IEP will be written within 30 days of your child's 3rd birthday	Local Education Agency (LEA) (Your local school district.)	Individual Education Program (IEP) Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families provide information about their child (vision for the future, strengths, challenges, concerns, etc.) Review your child's Present Levels of Academic and Functional Performance which are based on data from the evaluations, teachers, and the family. Write academic and functional goals based on data from evaluations and from the IEP Team, which includes the family. Determine the Least Restrictive Environment in which the child will learn. Outline Special Education service time (how often and for how long). Determine Related Services to support the goals, which could include speech therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, interpreting services, mobility services, parent counseling and training, etc. Determine types of supplemental aids, support, accommodations and/or modifications needed, if any. Parental Consent for Services will be signed.

Want more information? Reach out to your Early Intervention Service Coordinator or Preschool Services Coordinator. You can also find support from Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) Parent Educators through our on-line form [here](#). Our Parent Educators are all parents of children with disabilities or special health care needs who provide individualized support for families at no cost. Support is available in English and Spanish; other languages are available upon request.

Check out all of the great [resources and tools](#) available on our website!

Visit ECAC's website
[ECAC Facebook page](#)
[NC Infant Toddler Program](#)



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