

The Transition Meeting for Children Transitioning to Kindergarten from Early Intervention

By Jennifer Billig, Include Me Consultant

As you look to the New Year and all of the many upcoming events, you realize your child will be transitioning into Kindergarten in the fall! This is an exciting and scary time for all families as we watch our children grow so quickly.

Families of children with special needs prepare for this transition much differently than other families. We have to think about what school our child will attend, or about what classroom will include our child. We might ask ourselves, "Will my child be included with his/her peers? Will my child need support? How will this support be different than the support my child received in Early Intervention?"

The transition can be a smooth one if you are prepared and you know your rights and your responsibilities.

Transitioning to kindergarten is a process that has several parts.

The first is to attend a general transition meeting for parents of students with disabilities. Your child's school district or Intermediate Unit (Preschool Early Intervention Program) should provide you with this information.

- **What will happen?** You will receive information about your child's educational options and Kindergarten registration and you will fill out the [Intent to Register](#) form.
- **Who will attend?** Those attending this meeting will be the school psychologist(s), special education director and related services staff, as well as representative(s) from the Intermediate Unit (IU) who provided services to your child.

The school district will discuss the [Notice of Transition Process](#) and [Permission to Evaluate](#) forms. They will then continue with the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This plan is written to make sure your child receives the necessary instruction and services for his/her diagnosis.

There are three options for your child's school age IEP:

1. The district can use the EI (Early Intervention) Preschool IEP
 - Early Intervention is the program that provided your child with services in preschool at ages 3-5.
2. The district can use the EI Preschool IEP with changes



- The changes will be discussed by the team of teachers/therapists that will be working with your child in school.
 - The changes could include removing goals that your child has accomplished or adding some goals.
 - Some of the people on the team may be new to your child and may have different suggestions.
3. The district can re-evaluate your child and create a new IEP
- This involves the entire team meeting and discussing new goals.

Each one of these options will require you to sign a [Notice of Recommended Educational Placement](#) (NOREP). This is the last part of the IEP. Once signed that you agree, it makes the IEP the official plan for your child for the school year. When you sign that you agree, you are signing that you agree to the placement (general education/life skills) and the goals. You must sign the NOREP:

- If you disagree, state that you disagree and list the reasons why and ask for a meeting.
- If you agree, you also have the right to attach a letter stating that you agree to the IEP and are signing the NOREP, but you have the following concerns, and if you do not see improvement, you will be asking for another IEP meeting.
- ***If you do not sign the NOREP the plan will automatically go into effect in 10 days.***



The re-evaluation will be conducted and an IEP meeting will be scheduled within 30 days of its completion.

The school district is required to place your child in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). This means that he or she has the right to be in the general education classroom with extra supports. For example, some children may need a personal aid, while others might need a Learning Support teacher.

Understanding your rights as a parent or family member and remembering that you are an important member of your child's IEP team will help to ensure a smooth transition into kindergarten for your child.

For more information about services and supports for families and their children with special needs, please visit the [Pennsylvania's Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, PaTTAN website](#).