

Transition Information for Families At the Transition Conference

What is the Transition Conference?

The goal of the transition meeting is to discuss community resources and possible options for services once your child leaves the First Step's program. With the parent's consent, First Step's staff will invite the special education staff from your local school system to this meeting. This is a great way for families to learn about services that the public school system offers to eligible children. The school system is required to offer these services at no cost to children over 3, who meet their eligibility requirements. Although a transition plan will be written at this meeting, your family is not obligated to make any commitment to programs or services at this time. Our primary objective will be for your family to have the necessary information make a smooth transition out of the First Step's program. Keep in mind that the transition conference occurs at least three months before your child's third birthday, at a mutually agreed time.

At the Transition Conference...

Our family will:

- Share our hopes for our child;
- Receive procedural safeguards information;
- Ask questions about anything that is unclear; and
- Review all transition options.

First Steps staff will:

- schedule and chair the transition conference;
- share information and resources that the family has requested or may need;
- participate actively in the transition plan;
- invite providers of other appropriate services, such as Head Start or other community partners, with parent consent; and
- modify the transition outcome and add strategies to help meet the outcome;

Early Childhood Special Education staff will:

- attend the transition conference;
- explain and answer questions about procedural safeguards under Article 7;
- discuss enrollment, eligibility, possible service options and places where services might be provided; and
- listen to our family's concerns about transition.

Some Questions to Ask at the Transition Conference:

- How will our child's eligibility for special education be determined?
- What additional testing will be done?
- Who can we call if we have questions?
- What are the different ways services can be provided?
- If our child is in a private early childhood program or Head Start, how will services be provided?
- When will we meet to decide upon eligibility?