



ALL GROWN UP AND GOING TO PRESCHOOL: Transition from Part C to Part B

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About DeEtte Snyder

I was a preschool teacher for 10 years prior to becoming a Part C Service Coordinator for children who are blind or low vision. For a few cross over years, I “lived” in both Part C and B.

My passion is assisting families on their learning journey with their children and especially as they move between systems of support. The first transition in a child’s educational journey is from early intervention to preschool.



Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Articulate 3 differences between early intervention and preschool services, including service delivery models and focus.
- Explain 3 key activities during the transition process, which may involve timelines, requirements, and responsibilities.
- List 3 ways to support parents and teachers as they navigate the transition process.



What is transition?

- The move from one educational program to another.
- The first (BIG) transition is usually from EI to Preschool.

Happens when child turns 3 years old, but officially begins between 30-33 months of age.

- IDEA assures that children and families **experience a smooth and effective transition**
- This happens through a team approach with family, EI team, and school team with a TSBVI in both.



The 5 Pillars of Early Intervention

1. Family Centered Practices
2. Natural Environments
3. Children's Learning
4. Adult Learning
5. **Quality Teaming**



Difference between IDEA Parts C and B

Part C – Birth up to 3 years

Family Centered

Instruction through parent coaching

Individualized Family Service Plan
(IFSP)

Natural environment

Focus on child's participation in
family routines

May include "outside" or non-Part C
private therapy services

No FAPE

Part B – 3 to 21 years

Child Centered

Direct instruction to child and
consultation to classroom team

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Least Restrictive Environment

Focus on child's participation in the
classroom and access to curriculum

May include "outside" or non-Part B
private therapy services

FAPE



**AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE**

Diverse systems...

- Some TVIs work in Birth to 3 programs... so will hand off.
- Some TVIs work in 3-21 programs... so will receive.
- Some TVIs work in Birth to 21 programs... so MAY continue.
- It is important that parents know the difference between systems (Part C and B) even if the TVI continues to support.



What parents may be thinking...

1. Preschool?... she's still a baby.
2. But he's not potty trained.
3. You mean you can't come anymore? I really get a lot out of our visits.
4. I don't want to know how delayed he is.
5. They don't know him like you do.
6. My child will NOT ride a school bus alone!
7. Our school doesn't have what she needs.



First Step: Transition Conference, Part C requirement

- Parents are encouraged to share information regarding their child's development, their concerns, priorities, and goals for preschool.
- Intended for parents to gather information regarding preschool:
 - preschool placement options available for their child
 - how their child could participate with accommodations
- Held between the child's age of 2.6 and 2.9 and can be held before if all parties request and agree. **The meeting location the parent's choice.**
- A transition plan is developed by all attendees and everyone receives a copy of the plan.

Second Step: LEA Notification/Referral

- Part C (IFSP service coordinator) sends the LEA (Part B) notification/referral form prior, during, or after transition conference at family's request/with consent if the family is interested in the LEA services.
- Must be given to LEA prior to child turning 2.9, unless a family opts out, though families can change mind afterwards.
- The LEA (Part B) is now responsible for leading the transition plan.
- With consent, Part C shares current IFSP and providers are encouraged to also assist (share information or participate).

Third Step: Evaluation and Eligibility Determination

- For children who are BLV, this includes the TSVI and/or COMS
- After LEA notification/referral from is received from Part C, LEA will lead transition plan, which may include:
 - review of existing data shared by Part C
 - complete Multi-disciplinary Evaluation Team (MET) evaluations as needed
 - preschool site visits
- MET meeting is held to share evaluation results and eligibility determination with parents.

Let's Talk Eligibility...

Must meet all 3 requirements for special education, including services by a TSVI

1. Established disability
2. Disability will or does adversely affect educational performance
3. Unique needs require special instruction (with and without accommodations/modifications)



Blindness/Visual Impairment

- “visual impairment including blindness” means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child’s educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness” (34 CFR §300.8(c)(13))
- Other eligibility categories may also be appropriate
- Determined through the evaluation process



The OSEP 2017 Letter

- Any level of visual impairment and cannot narrow definition to exclude.
- No predetermination based on eye condition.
- Can require medical diagnosis but if diagnosis is to determine eligibility alone it must be obtained at public expense and be a portion of the comprehensive evaluation procedures.



Final Step: “In by three!”

- If child is found eligible, Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting is scheduled with parents to develop a plan, the IEP, to implement preschool services.
- IEP must be completed within 30 days of the MET and prior to child’s 3rd birthday.
- If not eligible, a 504 plan for accommodations can be created for the preschool.

(20.U.S.C. §1414(d)(1)(D); C.F.R. §§300.321(f))



Resources

Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

<https://ectacenter.org/topics/transition/transition.asp>

National Center on Deaf-Blindness

<https://www.nationaldb.org/info-center/educational-practices/early-intervention-to-preschool/>

Wonderbaby – Parent Perspective

<https://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/transitioning-to-preschool>

