

Questions Parents Should Consider Asking About Transition

General Program Questions

- What are the differences between early intervention and preschool or early childhood special education services?
- How much does it cost for early childhood services?
- Is there a school registration process?
 - Is there a cost for registration?
 - Are there other documents I will need for registration?
- Does my child need to have a physical, or vision or hearing test before starting school?
- Does my child have to wait until the beginning of the school year to start services?
- Who do we contact to visit a program or classroom before we have the IEP meeting?

Eligibility

- How will our child's eligibility be determined?
- Is there additional testing that needs to be done?
 - If my child will be evaluated, who would do those evaluations?
 - When and where would testing be done?
 - How can I observe the evaluation?- Will I be in the room with my child, or observe through a two way mirror?
 - When will we receive the evaluation report to review before the IEP meeting?
- When will I know if my child is eligible for these services?
- Will eligibility for school services give my child a label?
- Who will be at the IEP meeting?
- Should both myself and my (spouse/significant other/mother who helps with childcare) be at this IEP meeting?
 - Should I bring my child to the meeting?
- Should my EI Providers be at this meeting?

Services

- Can my current Early Intervention therapist continue serving my child?
- I've heard different things about the use of aides (paraeducator/other adults) in the classroom. Since my child requires more assistance, wouldn't that mean he/she would need an individual aide (one-on-one assistance)?
- Is the program full-day or half-day?
 - What are the hours of the program?
 - Are there morning and afternoon options?
 - What is the structure of the educational programs you offer?
- Do only children with disabilities go here? Or are other kids without disabilities present as well?
- Are there other places my child might receive these special education services besides the school setting?
- My other children attend a daycare that has a preschool. Can our child receive services there?

Services, Cont.

- Can my child receive services in our home?
- I am not sure if my child needs all these services in a classroom program. Can my child receive just therapy and not attend the school program?
- My child receives _____ therapies (ST, PT, OT, DT, etc.) in Early Intervention. What might those therapies look like in school?
- Will he/she continue receiving these therapies like he/she did in EI?
- Will my child be riding the bus?
 - Can we do a trial run?
 - Do they have seat belts and/or car seats on the bus?
 - Do they have wheelchair locks or tie downs on the bus?
- What if I do not agree with the school's decision?

Special Concerns

- My child has never been away from me like this.
 - How will the staff be sure he is ok?
 - What can I do to make his/her time there be more smooth?
- Can we come to the school anytime?
- Will we meet the staff and see the classroom before he/she starts school?
- How will the staff communicate with me?
 - How can I contact my child's teacher, or therapists during the week?
- My child doesn't talk yet, so how will I know what he/she does during the day?
- My child communicates in different ways (signing, augmentive communication, pictures, etc.).
 - How will that be used in school?
 - Will the staff and the other children be able to understand him/her?
- My child still is not yet toilet trained.
 - Will this affect his/her ability to attend school?
 - How will they deal with this at school?
- My child _____ (bites, hits, screams, runs around, has other behavior issues, etc). How will the school handle this issue?
- Do they serve snacks/meals at school?
 - My child is a picky eater (uses a G-tube, thickener, dietary restrictions, food allergies). How will they deal with this?
- My child takes a medication during the day.
 - Will the school be able to give that to him?
 - Do I need to do anything to help this?
 - Will a nurse be available?
- My child has some unique needs (requires special handling, etc). How can we help the school personnel understand those needs?
- How will the school make sure my child is involved in activities?
- Can I talk with other parents?
 - Is there a parent group or organization for parents of children with special needs?
- What can I do to help my child's transition be easier?
- What if something changes between now and when time for my child to start school, or I change my mind. What should I do?