



From IFSP to IEP

Transition Planning from Early Intervention to Preschool Services in New Jersey

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NJEIS

NJ EARLY
INTERVENTION
SYSTEM
BIRTH TO THREE

From Family Focused to Child Focused

Under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), children who qualify may receive special education services. From Birth up to age three, services are provided by the New Jersey Early Intervention System. Early intervention services and goal planning for your child and family are defined in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

The Part B preschool program focuses on your child's educational needs. Children ages three through five years old are provided educational supports to enable them to participate in daily activities and have access to the general curriculum.



IDEA Part C

Early Intervention - Family Focused

Lead Agency: New Jersey Department of Health

Ages Served: Infants and Toddlers, birth to age three, with developmental delay or disabilities

Eligibility: Infant or Toddler has a delay in one or more of the five designated areas of development or has a condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

Timeline: 45 Days to complete evaluation and Initial IFSP once parental consent and completed referral is received.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP): A written plan of services that your child and family will receive.

Location: Services occur in child's natural setting, such as in home or childcare center.

IDEA Part B

Preschool - Child Focused

Lead Agency: New Jersey Department of Education

Local Lead Agency: Local School District

Ages Served: Children, ages three to five years, with disabilities. Five-year-olds who are eligible for kindergarten are not served through the Preschool Program.

Eligibility: Child must meet criteria as having a disability in one of 14 classification categories as defined by IDEA, and a determination must be made that the disability affects their learning.

Timeline: 60 days from the time referral is completed and parental consent is signed and submitted to complete evaluation.

Individualized Education Program (IEP): A legal document that states a child's educational goals and the services and supports the school will provide, must be written within 30 calendar days after a child is determined eligible.

Location: Supports and services are provided in the least restrictive environment.

The Purpose and Aims of the Early Intervention System

- Early intervention services, like those provided by the EIS, have a profound effect on a child's developmental path, enhancing life outcomes for children, their families, and the wider community.
- The program is built on the understanding that experiences in the early years of life play a pivotal role in shaping brain development. By stepping in during this critical period of rapid brain growth, we can leverage the brain's adaptability to help children achieve their maximum potential.
- The EIS does more than just support child development; it equips families with the necessary skills and knowledge to foster their child's growth and development effectively



Goals of Early Intervention

Child Find/ Public Awareness



Identify, evaluate and meet the needs of children including historically under-represented populations

Enhance Capacity of Families



To meet developmental & health related needs of infants/toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities

Provide Family Centered Approach



Based on the uniqueness of the family and their culture

NJEIS Mission Statement

Support Families As Children Transition From EI



Into community programs: preschool, early childhood programs, and other systems of services & supports

How EIS delivers services

State Interagency
Coordinating Council

Department of
Health

4 Regional EI
Collaboratives

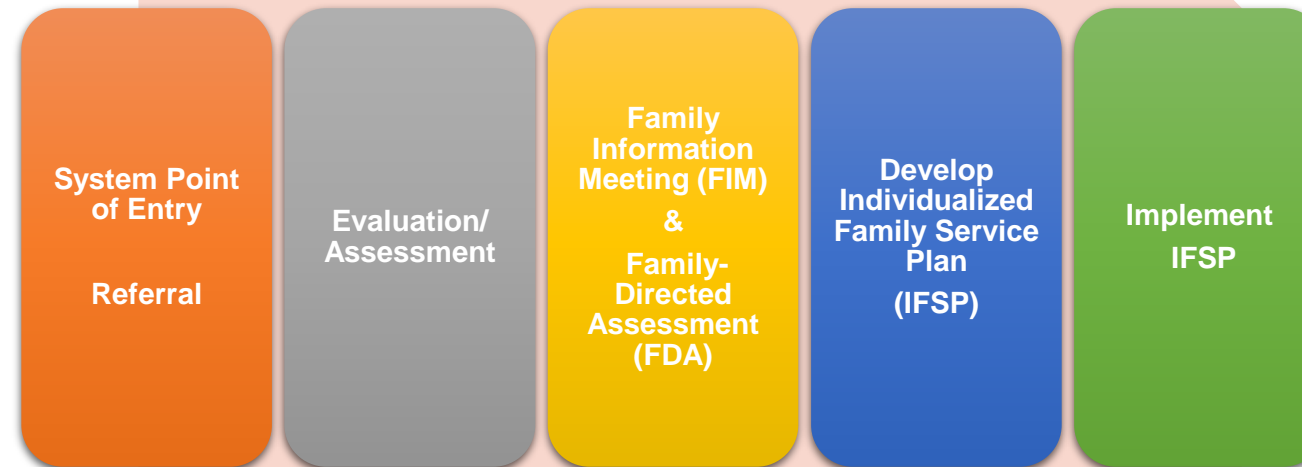
49 Provider
Agencies

21 County Service
Coordination Units

4,500+ practitioners



EI Steps for Families of Eligible Children



The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)



A written plan of action developed by the team



Describes child's current levels of development



Addresses child's strengths & challenges



Identifies the family's concerns, priorities & resources



Develops activities & strategies to meet the family's goals

Most Common Types of Early Intervention Services



**Service
Coordination**



**Developmental
Intervention**



**Speech-Language
Therapy**



**Occupational
Therapy**



Physical Therapy



Family Training



Social Work



When a Child is Preparing to Exit IDEA/ Part C Services Parents Have the Right To:

A transition plan with outcomes, supports, and services needed to support their child's exit from IDEA/ Part C when their child turns three years old.

Notification to the local school district that their child is potentially eligible for preschool services.

Referral to the school district and/or other community programs.

A transition conference with the school district or with an early childhood/preschool program of the parents choosing.

Transitioning Beyond Early Intervention



Reasons for Transition

- Child turns age 3
- Child has progressed - no longer meets NJEIS eligibility criteria
- Family moves within the state or to another state
- Parent withdraws



Transitioning where?

- Early Childhood program
- Head Start
- Home and community activities
- Pre-school special education and related services through local school district



Transition Planning

- Service coordinator works with family to develop a transition plan – and next steps to prepare child/family for the change

What Is Transition?

Leaving and entering a program requires formal planning and preparation. A transition planning conference can be held as early as age 2 years and 3 months, but no later than 2 years and 9 months.

A Service Coordinator and IFSP team will work closely with families to make sure they are as prepared as possible to support their child's transition to an early childhood setting(s). If a child is eligible for preschool special education services, important decisions about the child's future educational needs will be discussed.



2 YEARS, 3 MONTHS TO
2 YEARS, 9 MONTHS:

Transition meeting is scheduled, and transition plan is written.

(Transition meeting can be held during six-month IFSP review.)

2 YEARS, 9 MONTHS:

Plan for Initial Part B evaluation is written and given to parent (s) for consent.

2 YEARS, 11 MONTHS:

Evaluation is completed and a determination of eligibility is made.

What Happens Before a Child Turns 3?

Referral:

At least 90 days before a child's third birthday, the Service Coordinator will send the child's name, date of birth, and contact information to the local school district unless the family chooses not to do so (opt out).

Evaluation:

A variety of assessment tools and strategies are used to gather information about a child, including information shared by the family.



Eligibility

When the evaluation is completed, eligibility is determined collaboratively at a meeting. To be eligible for special education and related services a student must have a disability according to one of the eligibility categories below:

- Auditory Impairment
- Autism
- Communication Impairment
- Deaf/Blindness
- Emotional regulation impairment
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Orthopedic impairment
- Other health impairment

If a child is found eligible for preschool special education, the family will participate in a meeting to develop their child's Individual Education Program (IEP). Families are part of the IEP team. At the parent's request the Part C Service Coordinator and others who know the child well will participate in the IEP meeting.



Babies & Toddlers Can't Wait!

#ActEarly – it can make a real difference!

If an infant or toddler (birth to 36 months) is not meeting developmental milestones or if a family has other developmental concerns, **call now.**

To Refer Your Child:
New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS)
TOLL-FREE: 888-653-4463



NJ DOH-NJEIS Website:

<http://nj.gov/health/fhs/eis>

REIC Websites:

www.njreic.org

www.thefamilymatterswebsite.org

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Thank You!

