

Frequently Asked Questions About Transitions from Part C to Part B

Not all children who have been receiving Part C services will make a transition to Part B services when the child turns three. For example, some children who were eligible for Part C services may not meet the eligibility criteria for special education services when they turn three years old. When children do transition to Part B, however, some common issues and questions may arise.

What do we do about summer services for children who turn three years old in the late spring or summer?

Good transition planning will insure that, prior to the end of the school year when the child turns three, the appropriate assessments and the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) have been completed so that the child can begin services at the start of the school year. This will insure that families know what services their children will be receiving and will prevent delays at the beginning of the school year. IEPs developed in the spring should be reviewed again in the fall to insure that services identified are still appropriate given growth and change that will occur in the summer. Early Childhood Connections (ECC) and Community Centered Boards (CCBs) should not be paying for services after a child turns three years old. The transition planning team needs to assist families in identifying alternatives for the summer months, including accessing community activities that take place during the summer.

What is ESY?

ESY is an acronym for Extended School Year. ESY refers to the provision of services for children who are 3 - 21 years eligible for Part B services during periods when school districts are not in session based on the child's individual needs and criteria used by that school district. It is important for families to understand that ESY is an option that must be considered for every child who has an IEP. A very small percentage of children meet the criteria for receiving ESY services. If the need for ESY services is anticipated, it should be discussed with the school district at the initial transition planning meeting to allow time to document this need.

Who will be the service coordinator once a child turns three years old?

The Part C service coordinator will serve as the child's service coordinator until the child turns three and the family begins to assume this role. In Part B, there is no requirement for a child and family to have a service coordinator, however, one strategy for assisting families is to make sure that they have the opportunity to connect with other families. Frequently the child's primary service provider under Part B (such as a speech and language pathologist or a teacher) will partner with the family in much the same ways as a service coordinator even though there is

no formally designated service coordinator. It is important to note that children eligible for the Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP) can receive care coordination from HCP up until the age of 21.

What might happen if the family does not think that the school district preschool program is appropriate for their child?

The family is part of the IEP planning team and should have input in the design of their child's educational plan. The development of this plan should include consideration of the amount and type of service appropriate for the child and a discussion of the least restrictive environment (LRE) for receiving those services. The school is required to provide appropriate educational services based on the child's needs outlined in the IEP. The school district may contract for these services so that a child could continue to receive the same services that were provided under Part C, the only change being the funding source. If the family and district are not in agreement, there are established dispute resolution procedures, such as the federal complaint process, mediation, or due process. The family always has the option to refuse services.