



Newsletter

Nassau and Suffolk Counties

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ECDC is a regional technical assistance center that provides free information, referral, technical assistance and support to families, professionals and community agencies concerned with children birth to five years with suspected or diagnosed delays or disabilities.

ECDC is funded by the New York State Education Department and hosted by Variety Child Learning Center.

If you would like to be included on our listserv to receive the latest federal, state and local updates, please send an email to amennuti@vclc.org.



Transitioning from EI to CPSE



If your child is currently receiving services in the Early Intervention Program (EIP) and is near his second birthday, you will need to begin the transition process to the Committee for Preschool Special Education (CPSE). You and your Ongoing Service Coordinator (OSC) will develop a **transition plan** for your child which will include important dates, deadlines and options. Your OSC will provide information and guidance through each step of the transition process.

What should I do ?

One of the first steps is to decide whether or not to **notify the CPSE at your school district** that your child may be referred to the CPSE for an evaluation. If you do not object, notification will be sent to your child's CPSE Chairperson at least 120 days prior to the date your child is first eligible for services through the CPSE. Every school district has a CPSE Chairperson, who is your primary contact at the school district, for the transition process. If you then decide to **refer your child for an evaluation by the CPSE**, you must also **register your child with your school district**. When you **sign consent for an evaluation** and give it to the CPSE Chairperson, the school district will offer you a **choice of the evaluator** and arrange for a **multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE)** of your child to determine what his present level of performance is.

What does an evaluation include?

The MDE will include a **psychological, a social history, an observation, a physical, and other evaluations as necessary**. The MDE will assess all areas of development including cognition, speech/language, motor, social/emotional and adaptive development to determine your child's strengths and needs. If you have significant concerns that your child's behavior is impeding his learning, a Functional Behavioral Assessment may be done also. You and the CPSE Chairperson will **receive copies of the evaluations** in preparation for the first CPSE meeting. Evaluations and reports from the EIP may be shared if you give consent to do so.

What are some of the differences between EIP and CPSE?

In the EIP, services are family centered while in Preschool Special Education, services and/or a program meet the child's **educational needs**. Your OSC will no longer work with you, but you may have a **Coordinator** if your child has more than one service and/or a program in Preschool Special Education.

Please call us
(516) 364-8580
for
Nassau and Suffolk
Resources
listed below:

Education Lists

- School Districts with CPSE Chairpersons
- Evaluator Agencies
- SEIT Agencies
- Preschool Special Education Programs with Special Classes in an Integrated Setting
- Preschool Special Education Programs with Special Classes

Community Based Organizations

- Social and Recreational programs, including arts/crafts, dance, music, socialization and sports
- Private and Public Summer Camps
- Parent Support

Parent Trainings

- Helping Your Child Learn
- Transition from Early Intervention to Preschool Special Education
- Transition from Preschool Special Education to School Age Special Education

Professional Trainings

- Communicating with Parents
- Early Childhood Services
- Literacy in the Preschool Classroom
- Positive Behavior Strategies for the Preschool Classroom
- Role of the SEIT

and more!



What does the CPSE do?



At the initial CPSE meeting, the committee members will include yourself and the Chairperson as well as other appropriate professionals. You may request your Service Coordinator from the EIP to attend. The Chairperson will lead the discussion of the results of the evaluations to **determine if your child is eligible for services and/or a program**. If your child is eligible, the CPSE develops an **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**. If your child does not have an IEP, his EIP will end on the day before his third birthday.

Once the IEP has been developed, you decide **when your child will actually transition** from the EIP to Preschool Special Education. For example, will your child remain in the EIP until his last eligibility date or transition to Preschool Special Education before that date? Some parents may opt to have their child transition to Preschool Special Education prior to the age of three based on their child's needs and available services and/or program.

What are the services and/or programs in Preschool Special Education ?

At the CPSE level, there is a **continuum of services and programs, from less restrictive to more restrictive**, such as related services, SEIT, Special Class in an Integrated Setting and Special Class. Services and programs are typically provided during the 10 month school year. Children, who require a structured learning environment to prevent substantial regression, may be eligible for an Extended School Year during a summer session.

The CPSE Evaluation and Preschool Special Education are voluntary. The Procedural Safeguards Notice, given to you by the CPSE at the time of referral, explains the process and rights which Education Law provides for you.

Please call the Long Island Early Childhood Direction Center if you need any free, confidential assistance during the transition process at 516-364-8580.



Sources:

- ♦ The Early Intervention Program: A Parent's Guide, Step 6: Transition, <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/0532/step6.htm>
- ♦ Procedural Safeguards Notice, July 2013, <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/formsnotices/psgn/PSGN-July2013.pdf>
- ♦ Transition planning dates calculator, <http://eservices.nysed.gov/ei/>
- ♦ The Transition of Children from the NYS DOH Early Intervention Program to the SED Preschool Special Education Program or Other Early Childhood Services, February 2005, <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/preschool/transitionguide/cover.html>