

## **Early Childhood Special Education Glossary**

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### **Why a Glossary?**

The special education process is full of terms that can feel confusing or overly technical. This glossary explains common early childhood terms in plain language so families can feel more confident in meetings and conversations.

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### **IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan)**

A written plan for children under age 3 who qualify for early intervention services. It includes goals for the child and family and outlines services provided through Tiny-K.

### **IEP (Individualized Education Program)**

A written plan for children ages 3 and up who qualify for special education. It lists your child's goals, services, and how progress will be tracked.

### **Tiny-K**

Kansas's early intervention program for children birth to age 3. It provides therapy and services at home or in the community for eligible infants and toddlers.

### **Early Intervention**

Support services for babies and toddlers who have developmental delays or medical conditions. In Kansas, these services are provided through Tiny-K.

### **Related Services**

Services like speech therapy, occupational therapy, or physical therapy that help a child benefit from their educational program.

## **Accommodations**

Changes in how a child learns or participates (like using picture cues or shorter tasks) that help them access learning without changing the expectations.

## **Modifications**

Changes to what a child is expected to learn. For example, reducing the number of learning goals or simplifying content.

## **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**

The setting where a child can learn with peers without disabilities as much as possible. This could be a regular preschool, daycare, or inclusive classroom.

## **Evaluation**

A formal process to understand your child's development. It usually involves assessments by therapists, teachers, or psychologists to see if services are needed.

## **Transition**

When a child moves from early intervention (birth to 3) to preschool services (ages 3 to 5). A meeting and new plan (IEP) are created before the child turns 3.

## **Procedural Safeguards**

Your legal rights as a parent in the special education process. You must be given a copy of these rights at certain times, such as before an evaluation or IEP.

## **Service Coordinator**

The person in early intervention (Tiny-K) who helps organize your child's services and supports your family through the process.

## **Consent**

Your written permission. Schools and providers must get your consent before starting an evaluation or beginning services.

## **Present Levels**

A section of the IEP that explains your child's current strengths and areas of need in clear, everyday terms.

## **Goals**

Specific skills your child will work on through services. They should be measurable and based on your child's needs.

## **Progress Monitoring**

How the team checks if your child is making progress on their IEP goals and how they share that with you.

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### **Tip**

If someone uses a word or phrase you don't understand, it is okay to stop and ask: "Can you explain what that means in plain language?"

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### **Important Reminder**

This glossary is based on Kansas early childhood and special education terms. Some words or services may vary by state or school district. Always ask for clarification when you need it.