

## **Transitioning from Early Intervention to Preschool (Part B)**

---

### **What is the Transition to Preschool?**

If your child receives Early Intervention services through Tiny-K (Part C of IDEA), they may be eligible for preschool special education services through your local school district under Part B of IDEA. The transition typically begins when your child is around 2 years and 6 months old.

This process ensures there are **no gaps in support** as your child turns 3 and ages out of Early Intervention.

---

### **Key Points Parents Should Know**

- **Transition planning begins early.** Your Tiny-K team will begin planning with you at least 90 days before your child turns 3.
  - **You will help develop a transition plan.** This is part of your IFSP and includes steps to help your child move into preschool services smoothly.
  - **You can choose to evaluate for Part B services.** If you consent, your local school district will conduct a special education evaluation to see if your child qualifies for an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
  - **Preschool services are part of the school system.** This includes special education services in preschool classrooms or inclusive settings.
  - **You are still a key decision-maker.** Your input helps shape what services look like and what is appropriate for your child.
- 

### **What is the Difference Between Part C and Part B?**

Feature	Part C (Tiny-K, Birth–3)	Part B (Preschool, Ages 3–21)
Focus	Family-centered, home-based	Child-centered, school-based
Plan Type	IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan)	IEP (Individualized Education Program)
Service Location	Natural environments (home, daycare)	Early childhood special education classrooms
Coordination	Service coordinator helps guide everything	IEP team formed at the school district level

---

## What is My Role in the Transition?

- Share what has worked well in Early Intervention.
  - Talk about your child’s strengths, challenges, and goals.
  - Help shape what you want their preschool experience to be.
  - Attend transition meetings and participate in the evaluation process.
  - Ask questions and speak up if something doesn’t feel right.
- 

## Timeline Snapshot

- **Around 2.5 years old:** Tiny-K begins preparing a transition plan.
  - **By 90 days before age 3:** A transition conference is held with the school district.
  - **Before the child's 3rd birthday:** Evaluation and IEP (if eligible) are completed so services can begin on their 3rd birthday.
- 

## What Other Parents Wish They Knew

- "I didn’t realize preschool special education was different from Tiny-K."
  - "Having my notes and questions written out helped me stay calm in meetings."
  - "It felt like a big change, but my child adjusted better than I expected."
- 

## Parent Reflection Space

*This is a good time to consider how you want your child's learning journey to continue.*

- What has helped my child grow the most so far?

- What goals are most important for preschool?
  - What questions or fears do I have about this transition?
  - What kind of environment helps my child feel safe and successful?
- 

## Sources

- Kansas Department of Health and Environment. (2023). *Kansas Infant-Toddler Services (Tiny-K)*. Retrieved from <https://tiny-k.org/>
  - Kansas State Department of Education. (2023). *Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)*. Retrieved from <https://www.ksde.org/>
  - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B and Part C. (2004). Retrieved from <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>
- 

## Important Reminder

*This handout reflects Kansas-specific guidance on transitioning from Part C to Part B. Always check with your local Tiny-K provider or school district for updates and specific steps in your area.*