

## Where to Find More Information

The DoDEA Parent's Guide to Special Education includes a list of Internet resources on this topic and many others. The guide can be downloaded at the Department of Defense Education Agency (DoDEA) Special Education Home Page. [http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special\\_ed/index.htm](http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm)

## Sites Especially for Military Families

**For more information about Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)**, visit [www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/efm](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/efm) and click on "EFMP," speak to a Special Needs Coordinator at your local military treatment facility, or visit one of the service-specific Web sites listed in the "For Information and Assistance" section.

**Military OneSource** - A Master's-degree consultant is available to provide help with concerns related to children with special needs 24 hours a day. Translation services are available in most languages. Call 1-800-655-4545 (in US and overseas). <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

**Systematic Training for Military Parents (STOMP)** provides information, training, and assistance to military families who have children with disabilities. <http://www.stompproject.org>

## Other Important Sites

**Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers** - Locator to find state parent training and information centers and links to scientifically-based research, national information centers, and IDEA. <http://www.taalliance.org>

**National Dissemination Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities** - Clearinghouse of information about special education and specific disabilities, summaries of key topics and points of contact in each state. <http://www.nichcy.org>

**Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)** - <http://www.peatc.org>

## IDEA Partnerships

Portal to resources related to IDEA, the law, national technical assistance providers, state/ local organizations and agencies, and the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). <http://www.ideapartnership.org>

**U.S. Department of Education** - information on special education, parent involvement, education research, laws and regulations. <http://www.ed.gov>

*Non-DoD informational references are being provided as required by IDEA but their inclusion in this material does not constitute any endorsement by DoDEA.*

## DoDEA Special Education Series

The complete series of brochures and other resources for parents of students with disabilities are available on the DoDEA special education website at [http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special\\_ed/index.htm](http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm).

### Special Education Brochures

1. Pre-referral Interventions: Steps Before a Special Education Referral/Assessment
2. Moving: Things to Remember When Relocating
3. Communicating Effectively: Building a Strong Partnership
4. Individualized Education Program (IEP): Your Role in the Process
5. Related Services: Understanding the Purpose of these Services
6. Early Intervention Services: Transitioning to Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities
7. Transition: Planning for Life After High School
8. Parent Rights and Responsibilities: Insights into Your Rights and Responsibilities
9. Resolving Disputes: Your Role in Reaching Resolutions
10. Assistive Technology: Assessment, Devices, and Available Services



## Early Intervention Services Transitioning to Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities

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# Early Intervention Services Transitioning to Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities

## Early Intervention

The Early Intervention program is designed to provide for the special needs of infants and toddlers between birth and 3 years old. It is a family-centered program and focuses on services that address your child's developmental needs and your family concerns. The program is operated by the military medical branches, and services are provided by an Early Intervention team. The plan developed for a family in this program is called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

## Special Education

Special education is designed to provide for the special needs of students between the ages of 3 and 21. The program consists of specially designed instruction that addresses the needs of students identified as having a disability. The program is the responsibility of DoDEA, and services are provided by special educators and related services personnel. The student plan developed for this program is called an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

## Moving Between Programs

As your child approaches 3 years of age, the Early Intervention team will work with you and DoDEA to see if your child is eligible to transition to the Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities (PSCD) in DoDEA.

## Your Role in the Transition

Both the Early Intervention and Special Education programs place a strong emphasis on family involvement. As a parent, you know your child's developmental strengths, needs and behaviors. You will be asked to share this information with the service providers working with you and your child during the transition period.



You can help by maintaining a current record of all information collected by the Early Intervention team. In addition, you should be certain your child's medical records are updated and a transition meeting is scheduled by the Early Intervention team with your DoDEA school Case Study Committee (CSC), of which you will be a member. This type of planning should begin when your child is 2 1/2 years old.

## The Transition Meeting

The Early Intervention team and the CSC will arrange a transition meeting to decide on follow-up actions for your child. The team may (a) decide more information is needed before DoDEA special education eligibility can be determined, or (b) decide that enough information exists to determine eligibility for special education.

## The PSCD Program

If the CSC finds that your child is eligible for special education services, the committee will develop an IEP and identify a program entry date. To provide for a smooth transition, the program entry date is individually determined.

## Parent Checklist

Please be certain the following activities have been completed for your child's transition from the Early Intervention Program to the DoDEA's Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities:

- The transition meeting has been scheduled.
- Your child's records include copies of current evaluations and services provided.
- Current developmental information is available from the early intervention team.
- Information about special equipment or devices is updated.
- You have made a list of your questions for the meeting.
- You have made a list of your child's strengths and particular needs that cause you concern.