

Section 6: Transition from Early ACCESS/Transition Planning

Introduction

Early ACCESS services are provided until a child's third birthday or until the child has met all IFSP outcomes and there is no longer a need for early intervention services. It is essential to anticipate the time when the child will no longer receive early intervention services. Planning for the child's transition is important in order to achieve our mission of enhanced child growth and development and family capacity to meet child needs.

With the approval of the family, all children exiting Early ACCESS by their third birthday should be provided an opportunity for transition planning to promote effective transition to other services [281-120.60-61].

Purpose and intent

Effective transition promotes linkages with the community system, including informal and formal supports, which will assist with the continued growth and development of the child. Families are involved throughout the transition process for their child. There shall be continuity of services for children during the transition process as children and families move from the Early ACCESS system to the school system or other community services [281-120.56].

Continued on next page

Section 6: Transition from Early ACCESS/ Transition Planning, Continued

Federal indicators regarding transition

√ C8
Transition

√ B11
60-day
time line

√ B12
IEP by 3rd
birthday

Data about transition services are collected and reported annually in three federal indicators in order to show AEA/Regional and State performance of IDEA Part C and B transition requirements (Indicators C8, B11 and B12). All states collect data on transition services. Each AEA/Early ACCESS Region is to meet the 100% target, which is reported in the Part C and B Annual Performance Reports available at www.iowa.gov. Iowa collects information for Indicator C8 on the IFSP Transition Planning form.

The three indicators include:

1. C8 Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including:
 - C8a Transition Steps and Services;
 - C8b Notification to LEA/AEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B; and
 - C8c Transition conference (90 days before child's third birthday), if child potentially eligible for Part B.
2. B11 Percent of children who were evaluated within 60 days of receiving parental consent for initial evaluation or, if the State establishes a timeframe within which the evaluation must be conducted, within that timeframe.
3. B12 Percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who are found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthday.

Discussions with families

Transition from Early ACCESS is to be discussed with families from the beginning of the child's eligibility to plan for a smooth change.

The Transition Toolbox: A Guide for Families

http://www.aea267.k12.ia.us/familyed/index.php?page=trans_toolbox

is a helpful resource for informing families about the transition process and enhancing their abilities to advocate for their child and family before, during and after the transition planning process. Step One could be shared at this stage of the process.

Continued on next page

Section 6: Transition from Early ACCESS/ Transition Planning, Continued

Steps and services

√ C8a
Transition

Steps and services needed to prepare the child and family for the transition should be incorporated into the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) over time, using the *IFSP Transition Plan*. The *IFSP Transition Plan* can be used as early as the Initial IFSP meeting and added to until the child exits [281–120.57].

Dual meeting purposes

IFSP teams are to follow procedures for the transition planning process which is completed during Initial, Periodic or Annual Meetings. The transition planning process is not a “type” of IFSP meeting. Requirements for Initial, Periodic and Annual meetings are still applicable even when the meeting purpose is for planning the child’s transition.

Referrals to Early ACCESS for children reaching maximum age

Federal regulations established specific requirements for transition planning in circumstances in which a child is referred to Early ACCESS prior to the child’s third birthday.

| If the child is referred to Early ACCESS... | Then ... |
|--|---|
| Between 45 and 90 days prior to the child’s third birthday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFSP Team must complete the evaluation for Early ACCESS, eligibility determination and initial IFSP meeting. Refer to Section 2: Intake/Comprehensive Identification Procedures; and • If eligible for Early ACCESS, follow the applicable procedures for the Transition Planning Pathway. |
| Less than 45 days prior to the child’s third birthday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is referred to Part B; and • Transition Planning is not required. |

Continued on next page

Section 6: Transition from Early ACCESS/Transition Planning, Continued

Transition planning pathways options

Federal regulations outline two transition planning pathways for children and their families, depending on whether they are considering Part B (special education) services after age three or choosing other community services.

| If data suggest child is... | Then IFSP Team follows procedures for... |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| potentially eligible for Part B | Transition <u>from Part C to B</u> Planning Process |
| not potentially eligible for Part B | Transition <u>to Other Community Services</u> Planning Process |

IFSP teams are to analyze and discuss ongoing child and family assessment data to determine which transition pathway the team will follow prior to conducting the transition planning meeting. Discussions about the data will guide decisions about the transition planning process.

| If data suggest... | And... | Then IFSP Team... |
|--|--|---|
| Child has acquired developmental skills comparable to same age peers | IFSP Team has no concerns about the child's ability to continue to demonstrate age appropriate skills without specialized educational supports and services. | Follows procedures for the Transition Pathway for Transition <u>to Other Community Services</u> Planning Process in Section |
| Child has acquired developmental skills comparable to same age peers | IFSP Team has concerns about the child's ability to continue to demonstrate age appropriate skills without specialized educational supports and services. | Follows procedures for the Transition Pathway for Transition <u>from Part C to B</u> Planning Process |
| Child has not acquired developmental skills comparable to same age peers | IFSP Team has concerns about the child's developmental progress without specialized educational supports and services. | Follows procedures for the Transition Pathway for Transition <u>from Part C to B</u> Planning Process |

Continued on next page

Section 6: Transition from Early ACCESS/Transition Planning, Continued

Required meeting timelines

The following outlines the requirements and timelines for holding a transition planning meeting, depending on the pathway chosen by the IFSP team [281–120.60-61].

| Pathway | Requirement | Timeline |
|--|---|--|
| Transition from Part C to B | Service Coordinators must convene a transition planning meeting with approval of the family. | At least 3 months and up to 9 months prior to the child's third birthday. |
| Transition from Part C to B | Eligibility for Part B services must be determined and an IEP must be developed and implemented with approval of the family. | Before the child's third birthday. |
| Transition to Other Community Services | Service Coordinators should make reasonable efforts to convene a transition planning meeting. | At least 3 months and up to 9 months prior to the child's third birthday. |

Note. Lessons learned from IFSP teams indicate the transition planning meeting needs to occur earlier than 3 months prior to the child's third birthday in order to complete all required activities by the child's third birthday.

Continued on next page

Section 6: Transition from Early ACCESS/Transition Planning, Continued

Parent declines a meeting for transition planning

The following table provides the actions to be taken by the Service Coordinator when a parent declines to hold a transition planning meeting.

| Step | Action |
|------|--|
| 1 | Informs parent that they have the right to decline a transition planning meeting. |
| 2 | Informs parent that if in the future they have concerns about their child's development, they can contact the AEA to request assistance in resolving educational or developmental difficulties or request an evaluation. |
| 3 | Documents on the <i>IFSP Transition Plan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Service Coordinator's attempts to engage family in a meeting; and, – Parent decision to decline a meeting. |
| 4 | Follows procedures: Transition to Other Community Services Planning Process except does not convene a formal Transition Planning Meeting. |

Note. In this circumstance, when the child exits Early ACCESS, do not use BND (Part B not determined). Use either EOP or ENR as the exit code.

Pathway procedures

Procedures for each of the two transition pathways are provided in the following sections:

- Transition from Part C to B Planning Process
- Transition to Other Community Services Planning Process.