


TO: Early Intervention Leadership
FROM: James E. Coyle, Ed.D., Director 
DATE: February 20, 2013
RE: Questions and Answers about the Transition Announcement

MESSAGE:

Thanks to all who participated in a brief telephone conference held on February 5, 2013. We discussed key elements of the revised announcement regarding the transition from infant-toddler to preschool early intervention. On the line were representatives of county and preschool programs, BEIS and EITA. I was joined by Kim Koteles, human services program specialist and division and Chief Emily Hackleman. Questions were received in advance, via email and by phone during the discussion. The informal responses below are offered to provide guidance and add to local discussions about transition.

IFSP teams often identify a child as being in transition in the special considerations section of the plan well before the 9-month to 90 days. Should that practice change?

IFSP teams may continue transition planning before the 9-month to 90 day period. However, if they choose to do so, they will still need to review and update the transition plan during the OSEP required window and document this activity on the IFSP.

If a child is found eligible extremely close to the child's third birthday, must an IEP be in place by age 3?

No. OSEP requirements regarding children identified near the third birthday are described in detail in the graphic organizers enclosed.

Implementation of this announcement may cause problems with verification. Can they be avoided?

While verification teams must address compliance issues, they must also be sensitive to special circumstances. The teams are aware that local programs have not had an opportunity to assess their local practices in terms of the explicit requirements of the announcement. Discuss with your verification chair records of concern and provide information regarding the child's evaluation, plan development and implementation.

Can parents decline IFSP services if the program is starting very close to the third birthday?

Yes.

Can you design an IFSP to include a very low level of service, or to include only service coordination?

Yes, provided that the IFSP is an appropriate plan and that it has been accepted by the family.

Local infant-toddler and preschool programs are urged to take the steps called for in the announcement as quickly as possible. Local planning will be required to insure compliance with the announcement and continued collaboration to provide families with a timely and positive transition experience. I look forward to learning about your continued transition innovations.

Enclosures