Early ACCESS Transition
Family Timeline

Early ACCESS services end when a child turns three. To support this transition, there is a process called transition planning that begins as early as when your child is 2 years and 3 months old. Ideally, plans are created at least 3 months before their third birthday to ensure a smooth transition.

Step 1: Looking ahead in preparation for transition
Begin at 2 years and 3 months

Your Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) team will discuss your child's abilities and needs. You can share your expectations, ask questions and talk about possible next steps for your child.

Step 2: Transition pathways- potentially eligible questions
This step focuses on understanding your child's development and information about available services after Early ACCESS ends. This may include special education or other services and supports.

Step 3: Transition meeting
Complete by 2 years 9 months

The transition meeting will help you make decisions, understand community programs and special education requirements. You will continue to develop a plan to provide services and supports for your child.

Step 4: Preparing for transition pathway
Prior to the child's third birthday

You will work with the team to complete activities to help with the transition. This may include steps to find out if your child qualifies for special education services. It may also include plans to enroll in services in the community.

Step 4: Transition to other community services and supports
Other services (community)

Head Start

Preschool

Private therapy (occupational therapy, physical therapy, applied behavioral analysis)

Home visitation/family support programs

Playgroups

Library story time

Step 4: Child Find for special education services

If not eligible, follow "other community services" pathway.

If eligible, follow steps 5 and 6.

Step 5: Eligibility and IEP process
Prior to the child's third birthday

The team will identify goals, supports and services needed to help the child.

Exit
Early ACCESS ends when child turns 3.

Step 6: Putting the IEP into action
Early ACCESS services end and IEP services begin by the child's third birthday.

Program Comparison

	Early ACCESS IDEA Part C	Special Education IDEA Part B	Other Services (Community)
Cost	No cost to families	No cost to families	Depends on provider
Eligibility	Diagnosed condition or 25% delay	Disability and need for specialized education supports	Depends on provider, may or may not require child to have a delay or disability
Service Provision	Services provided through IFSP and focus on the needs of family to support child	Individualized Education Program (IEP) focuses on educational needs of child	Provider will work with you to develop plan
Location	Home or other natural setting (childcare, preschool, places in the community)	Least restrictive environment-preschool classroom	Depends on provider
Provider	Provider coaches parents to support development	Provider directed	Usually provider directed