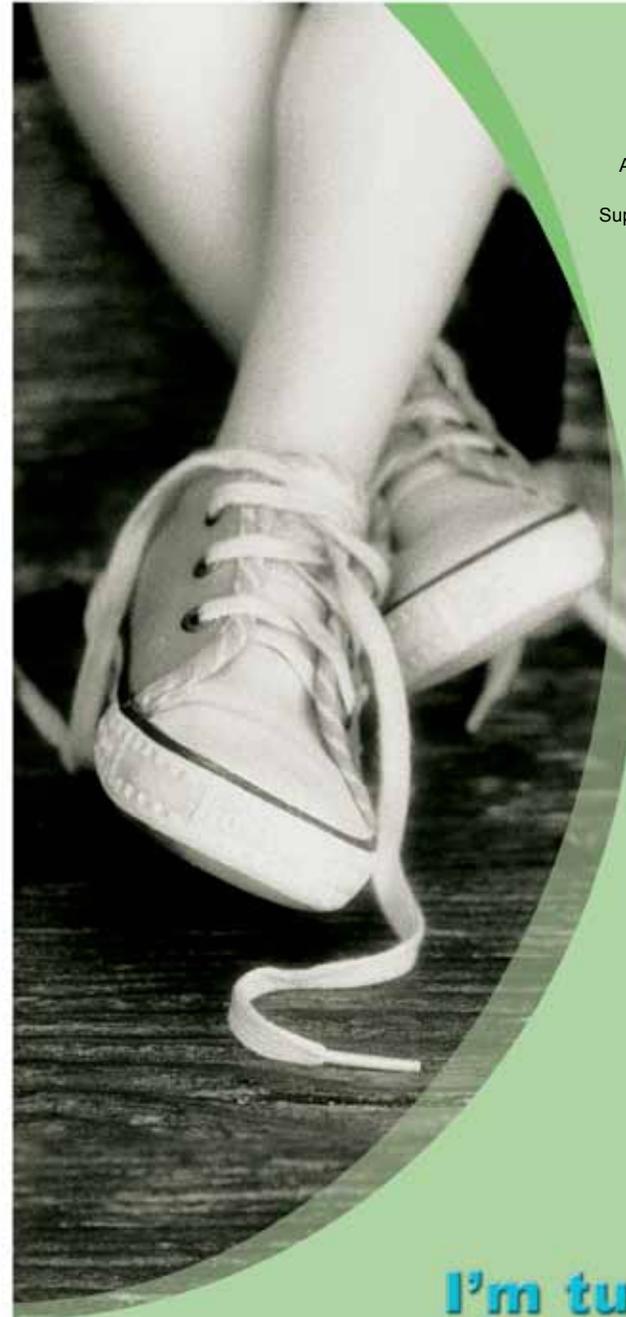




Arizona Department of Education
John Huppenthal
Superintendent of Public Instruction



**I'm turning 3,
what's next for me?**

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Arizona Resources for Preschool Options:

- Arizona Department of Education/Early Childhood Special Education, ecceinbox@azed.gov or 602.364.1530
- Arizona Department of Education/Find A School, www.azed.gov/edd or 800-352-4558
- Arizona Head Start Association, www.azheadstart.org or 480-557-9607
- Child Care Resources & Referral, www.azchildcare.org or 800-308-9000

Arizona Resources for Parents

- Arizona Department of Economic Security/Arizona Early Intervention Program, www.azdes.gov/azeip, or (602) 532-9960 or (888) 439-5609 (outside Maricopa county)
- Arizona Department of Education/Child Find, www.azed.gov/ess/childfind or 877-230-7467
- Arizona Department of Education/McKinney-Vento, www.azed.gov/schooleffectiveness/specialpops or 800-352-4558
- Enhancing Arizona's Parent Network (EAPN), www.azeapn.org
- Parent Information Network, www.azed.gov/ess/pinspals or pins@azed.gov or 877-230-7467
- Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona, www.pilotparents.org or ppsa@pilotparents.org or 877-365-7720
- Raising Special Kids, www.raisingpecialkids.org or info@raisingpecialkids.org or 800-237-3007

National Resources for Parents

- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities, www.nichcy.org or 800-695-0825
- National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, www.nectac.org or 919-962-2001
- Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers, www.taalliance.org or 888-248-0822

References: Adapted with permission from PACER: Transition from Early Intervention IFSP to an IEP, 2008.

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Celebrating Change



Your child's birthday is six months away, and you've been told that your family will be doing "transition planning" soon because the early intervention program ends at age three. You're anxious, but at the same time want to prepare your child and family ahead of time. After all, transition planning can bring great rewards for you, your child and the professionals who work with your family. You can learn new skills and strategies that may help with future transitions. Your child can learn to adjust to new people, programs or settings. You'll be exploring options that match with your family's needs and goals for your child, such as:

- transitioning to the local school district for special education services,
- choosing a program or setting such as Head Start,
- selecting a private preschool or child care, or
- opting out of the transition process at any time

Knowing What to Expect

All transition activities must be completed by your child's third birthday. Your Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) service coordinator will schedule a transition meeting to discuss your child's needs and transition options. You and the transition team will address a variety of topics, such as developmental/medical history, goals for your child and family, eligibility criteria, timelines and team members' responsibilities. Many decisions are made during the transition meeting(s). Feel free to ask questions at any time during the transition process. You might, for example, want to know:

- Who will arrange for me to visit the proposed program(s)?
- Who is my contact person if I have other questions?
- When will my child make the transition to a new program?
- Who will provide transportation for my child?

You are an important part of the evaluation team and Individualized Education Program (IEP) team that makes these decisions. Your input is extremely valuable as you know your child best! If your child does not qualify for special education services, the team members can provide you with information regarding other community-based services that may be available for you and your child.

Moving from “Family Focus” to a “Child Focus”

	Early Intervention	Preschool
Lead Agency	Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Early Intervention Program	Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services and Early Childhood Special Education
Age	Covers children birth up to age 3	Covers children age 3 through kindergarten entry
Service Coordination	A single, designated service coordinator	Special Education Director and/or preschool coordinator oversee preschool teachers and related service staff. Preschool teachers or Speech-Language pathologists are often the case managers.
Focus of Services	Helps the family promote their child’s development through the family’s everyday routines, activities and relationships	Supports the child’s educational needs in five areas of development: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, communication and adaptive (self-help) skills
Services provided in Natural Environments and the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)	Supports and services are documented in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and typically are provided in natural environments such as child’s home, Early Head Start, or child care setting.	Special education and related services are documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Your child should be educated as much as possible alongside typically developing peers in inclusive settings such as preschool, child care or Head Start Programs.
Cost	AzEIP uses many funding sources including federal and state funds, public and private insurance and Family Cost Participation.	A free appropriate public education (FAPE) must be available to any child with a disability, who has been determined eligible for special education and/or related services.



Preparing Your Family and Child

Making transition decisions with your team is just the first step. The next step is to prepare your family and child for new teachers, children, schedules, routines, classroom activities and expectations. To help make the transition easier, try these tips:

- Plan ahead. Allow enough time to make decisions.
- Talk with other families about what the process was like for them.
- Learn how to advocate for your child.
- Make sure your child’s medical, educational and assessment records are up-to-date.
- Attend a parent training to learn more about the transition process.

This may be the first of many transitions in your child’s life. Be sure to include your child in the preparations. Knowing what to expect can help your child feel more confident going into a new situation. You might want to:

- Talk to your child about going to a new program and visit that setting.
- Read books about going to preschool or meeting new friends.
- Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children.
- Encourage your child to communicate with others and ask for help when needed.