



Let's Talk

Moving From Early Intervention to School Services



“When Jacob was very young, he worked with a speech-language pathologist to help understand and say words. He made a lot of progress but still was not putting words together. When Jacob was in early intervention, they worked with the whole family. Now that he is moving on to school, I don't know what to expect. What are we supposed to do?”

—Rheana

Is Your Child Receiving Early Intervention Services?

If your child has been getting services through early intervention, or EI, it may be time to discuss getting him ready to start school. This typically happens when the child is 3 years old. Some children can stay in EI services for a little bit longer if they need. But most children at this age are ready to move from EI to special education services at school. Your child can get help at school even before he is in kindergarten. Special education services are different from EI.

How Are Special Education Services in the Schools Different From EI?

Special education services help get your child ready for school. Your child will have different people working with her in most cases. She may get help in a different place than she did in EI. You may also hear more about specific problems that your child has.

Children in both EI and school can get services from a speech-language pathologist, or SLP, if they need them.

The school will not give your child special education if she only needs to learn English. Learning English as a second language is not the same as having a speech and language disorder. English as a second language services don't start until your child is enrolled in school.

What Do I Need to Do?

You and your family should get help from your family service coordinator. This person will set up meetings with the school.

Fast facts

- Babies and young children can get special help through early intervention.
- Older children can get help through special education services in the school.
- Children who have problems understanding and talking can get help from a speech-language pathologist, or SLP.

Or, you can call the school yourself. Talk to the director of special education to set up a meeting.

Bring along all of the information you have from EI. You should also bring any other information that may help the school to learn about your child, such as doctor's reports.

The school will test your child to find out what he needs. Let them know what language you speak at home. They will test your child in the language that your child speaks best. The school will ask you to sign a form giving your okay to do this testing.

The school will talk with you about the results of the testing. You will get a copy of the evaluation report. Also, you will meet with a team to discuss what help your child needs and how he can get it. This team will include you, your child's teacher, a school administrator, and any other person who may work

with your child. If your child still needs help, the team will write an individualized education program, or IEP. The IEP will list ways that the school will help your child.

What Can I Do to Make the Move to School Services Easier for Me and My Child?

- Give as much information to the team as you can to help the other team members understand your child.
- Ask questions if you don't understand something the team wrote in the reports or said in the meetings.
- Remember that you are a member of your child's team. Work with the team. Let them know if you don't agree.

“ Jacob was evaluated. We decided that he still needs some extra help with talking and listening. We're excited that Jacob will get services in the same school where he'll be for kindergarten. It's nice that he'll know someone when he starts school in 2 years. I know that now he'll be ready.”

—Rheana

**Speech and language disorders can change your child's life.
Help is available.**

To learn more about early intervention and special education services call iTherapy at: (707)651-9915
or visit our website www.itherapyllc.com