

What is Early Childhood Transition?

NM Early Childhood Transition is a collaborative effort among NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) Family Infant Toddler Program (FIT), NMPED Special Education Division, NM PreK, NMSD, NMSBVI, EPICS, PRO, Head Start, the Center for Development and Disability Early Childhood Learning Network and other valued partners.

Preschool Transition is a requirement under the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (34CFR§300/§303)** as part of the required **Child Find** process toward a **continuum of supports for ALL preschoolers**.

The **IDEA** has two parts that apply to special education and related services.

- **Part C Services** are offered through private providers who are monitored and provided with technical assistance and regulatory guidance from the ECECD FIT program.
- **Part B Services** are offered through local public school districts.

***Participation in the special education process is voluntary and preschool supports available to families will vary from community to community.** (See insert for local community providers)

****This information is for parents whose children with disabilities will be turning 3 years of age and who qualify for special education and related services under the IDEA. This brochure explains Part C and Part B supports, the transition process, and access to quality preschool programs for ALL New Mexico youngsters.***

SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

IDEA Part C <i>Early Intervention</i> <i>Birth to 3 Years</i>	IDEA Part B <i>Public School</i> <i>School-Age; 3-21 Years</i>
Specifically designed supports and services provided through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) by private state contracted agencies mandated under law to support eligible children and their families in enhancing a child's potential growth and development from birth to age 3 years. Supports the attainment of child and family outcomes based on priorities or changes that a family wants to see for their child and family.	Specifically designed instruction and related services provided through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to meet the educational needs of children ages 3 through 21. Provided by local school districts to eligible children within their jurisdiction for <i>access to a continuum of preschool supports</i> in order to meet the educational goals that are established by the IEP team, which includes parents, and support the child's successful participation in general education. The IEP addresses educational needs that arise due to the disability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN EXPLANATION OF THIS MATERIAL CONTACT:

Parents Reaching Out (PRO)
(505) 247-0192

<https://www.ececd.org/fit-families/>

Education for Indian Children with Special Needs (EPICS)

(505) 795-0296

<https://www.epicsnm.org>

Family Infant Toddler Programs (FIT)

(505) 696-1472

<https://www.ececd.org/fit-families/>

NMPED Special Education Division

(505) 827-1457

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/special-education/>

Supporting Transitions to Preschool for Young Children with Disabilities

Under The Individuals with
Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



EARLY INTERVENTION
(IDEA Part C)
and
PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION
(IDEA Part B)

What's the Difference?

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS


IDEA Part C <i>Early Intervention</i>	IDEA Part B <i>Specialized Supports & Services</i>
<p>Any child under the age of 3 who is a resident of New Mexico may be eligible under one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Delay: A delay in development of 25% in one or more of the five developmental domains: gross motor, fine motor, language, cognition, and social-emotional. • Established Condition: A diagnosed medical condition or determination of Autism, Down Syndrome, Deafness and/or Blindness, Hearing and/or Visual Impairment, Neurological/Musculoskeletal Impairment, Physical Impairment, Genetic Disorder, and/or Traumatic Brain Injury. • Biological/Medical Risk and Environmental Risk: Find detailed and valuable information about this and other eligibility components for services under IDEA Part C in the FIT Families Handbook: https://www.nmcecd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FIT-Families-Handbook-EN.pdf <p>FIT Referrals– FAQs https://www.nmcecd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FIT-Referrals-FAQ.pdf</p> <p>More Information: www.fitprogram.org or call Toll Free: 1-877-696-1472.</p>	<p>Children ages 3 through 21 who have been evaluated and determined to be “<i>a child with a disability</i>” under one or more of the following disability categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Autism 2. Deafness/Deaf-Blindness 3. Emotional Disturbance 4. Hearing Impairment 5. Intellectual Disability 6. Multiple Disabilities 7. Other Health Impairment 8. Orthopedic Impairment 9. Specific Learning Disability 10. Speech/Language Impairment 11. Traumatic Brain Injury 12. Visual Impairment 13. *Developmental Delay— <p><u>Only children ages 3 through 9 years can be eligible as “DD”.</u> Those who do not meet eligibility for categories 1-12 and show a developmental delay may be eligible for special education and related services.</p> <p><u>NOTE: Children eligible under IDEA Part C early intervention may not qualify for services under IDEA Part B special education.</u> Special education does not provide services for children who are at-risk. Under the Part B “DD” category, a 30% delay is required rather than the Part C 25% delay.</p>

IDEA PART C and IDEA PART B SERVICES

IDEA Part C <i>Early Intervention</i>	IDEA Part B <i>Specialized Supports & Services</i>
Services through Part C- early intervention continue year-round.	Services provided by special education are provided during the school year. For services to be provided for an Extended School Year (ESY) during the summer, there must be a documented need identified on the IEP.
Services are family-centered through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).	Services are child-centered with emphasis on academic, functional, and educational performance through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
Services are provided in everyday routines, activities, and settings.	All educational placements and services must be provided in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) that is appropriate to each child’s needs.
Related services as allowable under 34CFR§303.	Related services as allowable under 34CFR§300.
<p>Fees Medicaid and/or private insurance may be billed for all services. Senate Bill 589 requires private health insurance companies to pay for early intervention services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No co-pay required • No deductible required <p>If a family does not have Medicaid or private insurance, then State general funds through ECECD will assume the costs for services.</p>	<p>Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Services are provided at public expense and without charge to families. All placement decisions are made by the IEP TEAM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NM PreK • Head Start • 619 Preschool Program • State-Supported Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMSD and NMSBVI • Other placements as determined by IEP Team.
<p><i>NM Participates in the FOCUS Essential Elements of Quality Preschool Programs and the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children</i></p>	


EVALUATION PROCESS FOR CHILDREN TRANSITIONING FROM EARLY INTERVENTION TO SCHOOL-AGE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

IDEA Part C <i>Early Intervention</i>	IDEA Part B <i>Specialized Supports & Services</i>
<p>The early interventionists who work with your child and family maintain ongoing assessment information that documents your child’s progress, needs, and continuing eligibility in early intervention. With your permission, this information is shared with the home school district during a <u>conference at least 90 days before your child’s third birthday.</u> This will help decide what additional evaluation activities, if any, are needed to determine whether your child is eligible for Part B preschool services.</p>	<p>With parental approval, special education staff from the school district <u>will participate in a conference at least 90 days before your child’s third birthday if you are considering preschool services.</u> They will review existing assessment information and decide if any additional evaluation information is needed to determine if your child is eligible for special education and related services. If additional information is needed, the school district must obtain your consent for additional evaluations to be conducted and provide you with prior notice of any evaluation activity. A team, which parents are a part of, determines if the child is eligible for special education and related services as well as the type, nature, location, and timeline for any additional evaluation.</p>



PRO

SCAN ME



EPICS

Scan the QR Codes here for the PRO (Parents Reaching Out) and EPICS (Education for Parents of Indian Children w/Special Needs) websites for help.