

Parents Tips for Successful Transitions

- Attend the conference
- Keep contact information- phone numbers, names, and addresses up to date.
- Bring all documentation and paper works from meetings.
- Feel free to ask questions and share information.
- Be open to suggestions
- Be a voice for your child.

We join you in achieving a smooth transition that leads to new and exciting developmental opportunities for your child.

A Parent's Guide to a Successful Transition for Children 0-5



Arkansas Department of Human Services

1-800-643-8258

<http://www.arkansas.gov/dhs/ddds/FirstConn/index.html>

Arkansas Department of Education
Special Education Unit

501-682-4222

<http://arksped.k12.ar.us/>

Transition . . .

refers to children with special needs changing from one service program to another. As your child gets older, the eligibility for services could include the following two transition periods:

1. FROM early intervention program (birth until third birthday)
TO early childhood special education program (3 until entering school age services).
2. FROM early childhood special education program (3 until school age services)
TO school age special education program (5 to 21).

Transition

- is required as your child gets older, and services and funding changes.
- is a group of activities that address all the changes that occur as a child moves from one program to another.



Preparing for a Transition Conference

As your child approaches age 3 or transitions to school age services, the current service program will schedule a transition conference that will include staff from the next service program. You will receive a conference notice. This conference is very important for you and your child, so please plan to attend. The conference notice will tell you the time, date, and place. It will also have a phone number to call if you have any questions.

- For each program to be prepared for the transition conference, information will need to be shared; therefore, you will be asked to sign an informed consent to release medical and educational assessment information.
- If a parent has any questions or concerns about the change, please bring them to the conference.



At the Conference :

- Who will attend?
 1. Representatives from your child's current service program
 2. Representatives from the next service program
 3. Parent(s) may bring others to the conference.
- These individuals will form the transition team for your child.
- Information will be shared and reviewed about your child.
- If your child needs to be considered for special education services, the next service program will review parents' rights with you.
- The team will decide what future actions need to be taken and many options may be discussed and considered for an appropriate program to meet your child's needs.