## PART C TO PART B TRANSITION

Evaluation and Assessment for Part B Services

The LEA is required to act on referrals for children who are transitioning from Early Start throughout the year, in order to hold the IEP by the child's third birthday. After receiving the referral and signed parent consent, the responsible LEA conducts an evaluation in all areas of suspected disability to determine the child's eligibility for special education. The LEA also conducts an assessment of the child's strengths and needs. This information is used to assist the IEP team to develop goals and objectives and to determine appropriate services that are designed to ensure a free appropriate public education. Federal and state regulations require that evaluations and assessments must:

- be conducted by individuals who have expertise in the suspected area of disability;
- include multiple measures that are considered valid and reliable for the child's age;
- take into account the child's and family's primary language.

The LEA designates individuals to conduct and complete the evaluation and assessment in time to hold the IEP meeting on or before the child's third birthday [34 CFR § 300.124(b)].
Initial IEP Meeting

The LEA must arrange the initial IEP meeting to be held on or before the child's third birthday. The purpose of the IEP meeting is to review the results of evaluation and assessment information and to determine eligibility for special education. IEP team participants must include the child's parents, the Early Start service coordinator at the parents' request, a regular education teacher, persons with knowledge of the child's abilities and needs, persons who can interpret evaluation results, and an administrator or designee from each affected LEA. If the child is determined eligible for special education, the team develops an IEP.

The IEP must be developed and implemented by the child's third birthday. Federal regulations under IDEA Part B require that services be provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE) that will allow the child to benefit from his or her educational program. LRE means that to the maximum extent that is appropriate, the child will be educated in the regular education setting with children who do not have disabilities. The IEP team will identify goals and design services to increase the likelihood that the child will make progress in the identified areas of need and successfully participate in regular preschool activities.

Timelines:

Age of Child Activity At or before:

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| 2 years 6 months Service: | Coordinator notifies parent(s) that transition planning will begin within the next 3 months. Service coordinator notifies the LEA that there will be a transition IFSP meeting requiring the |

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| | attendance of an LEA preschool representative before the toddler is 2 years 9 months. |
| 2 years 9 months: | Referral called in to appropriate LEA provider including sending all pertinent medical records evaluation for school placement and continued FNRC eligibility begins. LEA's have 15 days to develop the assessment plan. |
| 2 years 11 months: | Prepare for IEP meeting. At least 10 days prior to the IEP the LEA confirms the date of the IEP/IFSP review meeting with FNRC, if appropriate. The IEP was tentatively set at the 2 years 6 months IFSP meeting. |
| By the child's 3^'' birthday | LEA sends evaluation results. IEP/IFSP review meeting is held. |