



# Beginning the Journey I

Early Intervention Services

# Beginning the Journey II

Transition to the School System





# Beginning the Journey I

## Early Intervention Services

(From 0 to 36 months)





# WELCOME

We are glad you are here





Family  
Driven



Non-Profit  
501(c)3

# Family Network on Disabilities

We do **NOT**:

act as Attorneys,  
Doctors, or  
Mental Health  
Professionals

What We **DO**:

provide is:  
Information,  
Resources, and  
Support

## Thank you and Welcome



# IDEA: Part C

1

What are Early  
Intervention  
Services

2

Early Steps,  
Our State EI  
Provider

3

Procedural  
Safeguards

# What is Early **INTERVENTION (EI)?**



# Why is Early Intervention so Important?

“During the first 3 years of life the brain undergoes dramatic development as the child acquires the ability to think, speak, learn, and reason.”

*-Shonkoff and Phillips*

Zero to Three website tells us that, “A child’s brain undergoes an amazing period of development from birth to three—producing more than a million neural connections each second.”

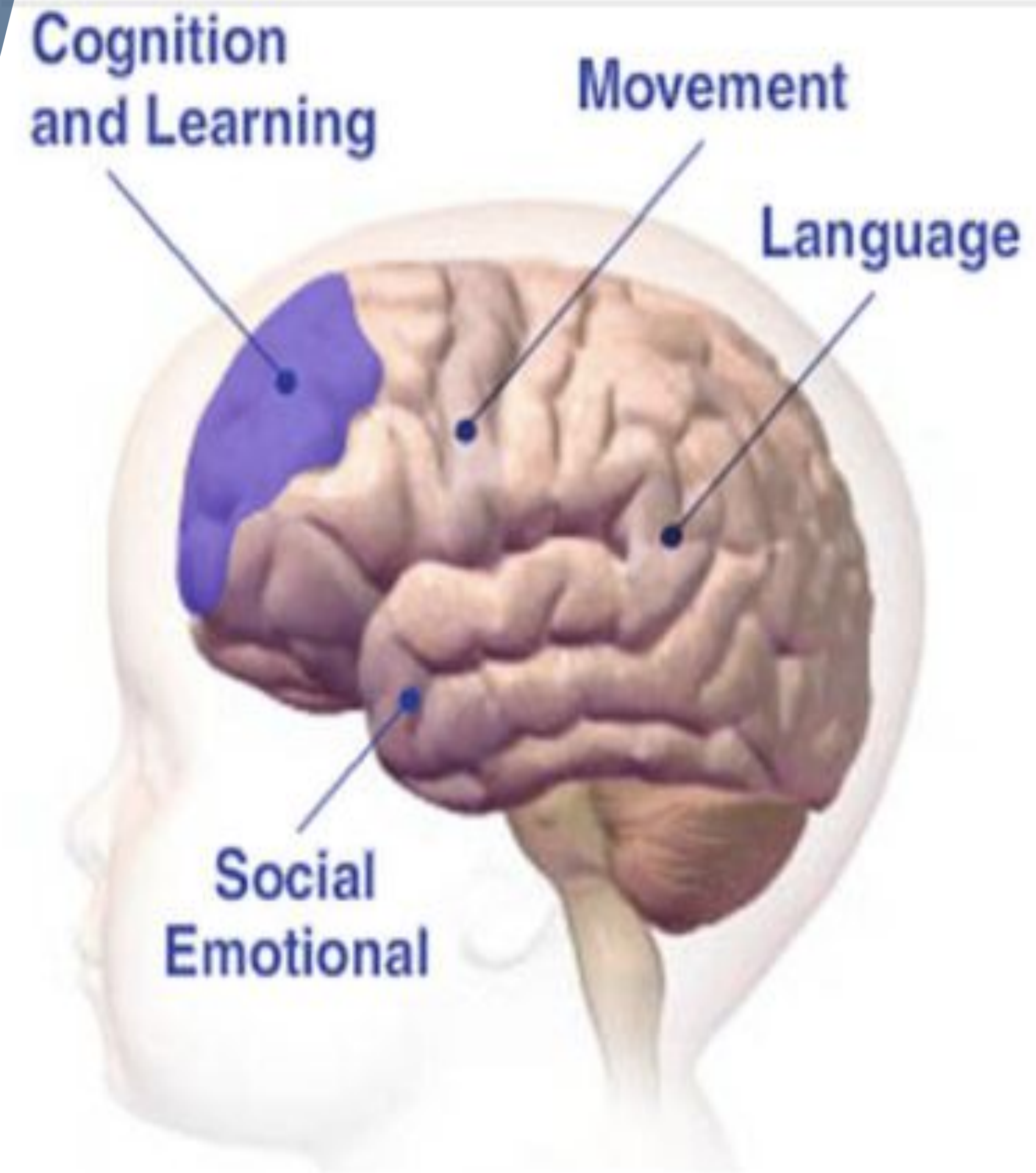
<https://zerotothree.org/early-development/brain-development>





# Areas of Child Development

1. Cognitive development
2. Physical development
3. Communication development
4. Social or Emotional development
5. Adaptive development



# A child may be found eligible for Early Intervention Services,

Risk

**Developmental Delays**

2.0 Dev. 25% in area  
1.5 Dev. 20% in more

Established

**Physical or mental condition**  
High Probability of Dev. Delay

**Very low Birth (less than 1,200 grams), Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Microcephaly. Zika Virus since Jan. 2018**



# How are Early Intervention services funded?

## IDEA-Part-C



# In Florida, we have



- Family-Centered
- Team Based Primary Service Provider Approach
- Natural Environment



# Who can refer to Early Steps and how much does it cost?

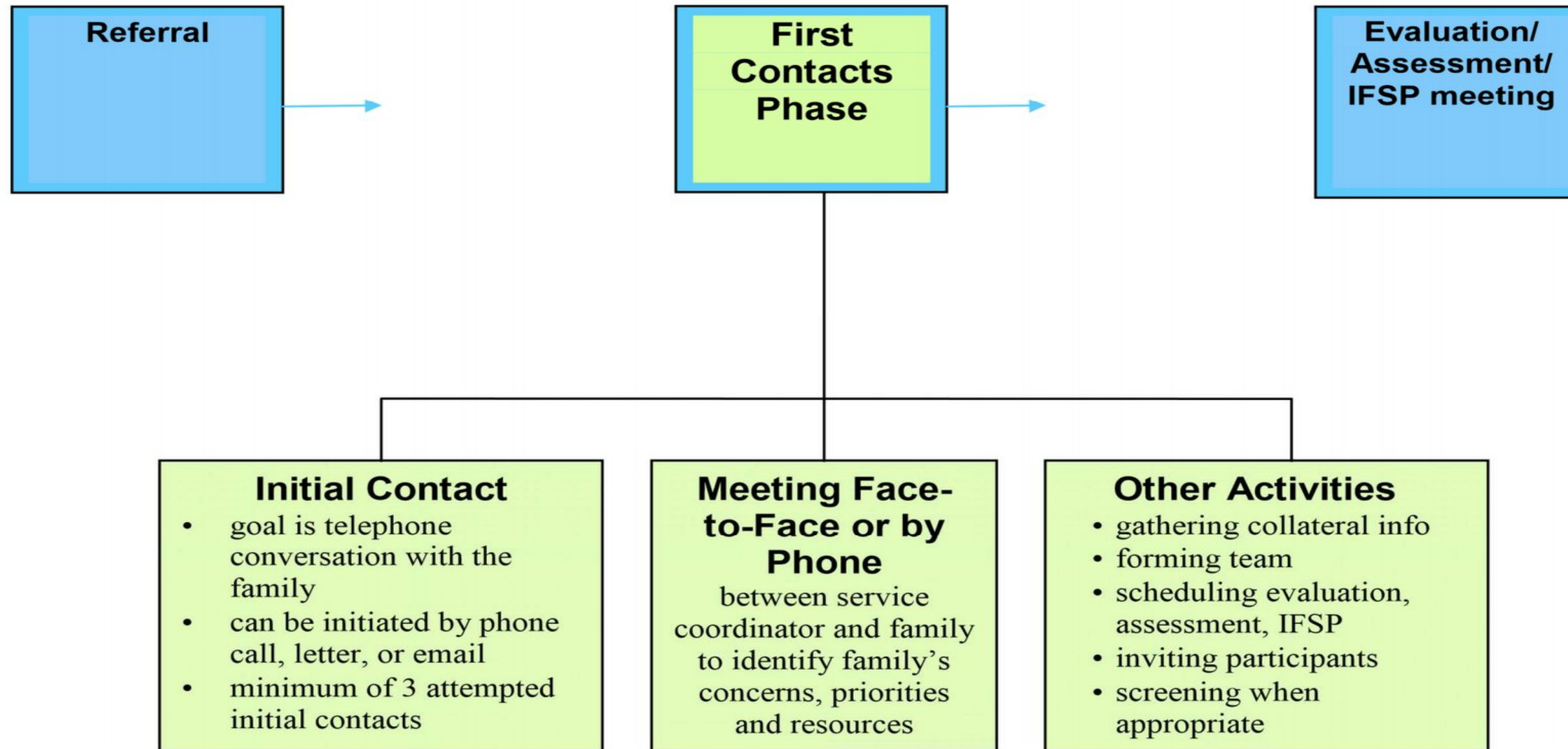
Community Partners - Pediatricians - Child Care - Parents - Friends - Anyone...

Voluntary? Cost?

What is the income criteria?  
Should I wait?



## Entering the Early Steps System



Day 1

5

10

20

30

Day 45

# 1. Initial Assessment & Evaluation

The initial assessment refers to the assessment of the child and the family assessment conducted prior to the child's first IFSP meeting.

The evaluation involves Multidisciplinary procedures used by appropriate qualified personnel to determine a child's initial and continuing eligibility for Early Steps



# What's the Goal of the Assessment?



**Enhance Family's Capacity**





# The Individualized **Family Support Plan (IFSP)** is written,

- Family's Information
- Getting to Know The Child & Family
- Health Status & Insurance
- Developmental Screening Results
- Service Coordination
- Child's Assessment/Eligibility Determination Part I & II
- Outcome: Goals & Strategies
- Services Needed to Achieve Outcomes
- Transition



Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP)	
Your Family's Information	
<b>Child's Information</b>	
Child's Name: _____	_____
Last	First
DOB: _____	Child ID #: _____
	MI
	AKA
<b>Caregiver(s)</b>	
<b>Caregiver Type:</b> _____	
Caregiver Name(s): _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	Zip Code: _____
	County: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Home Phone: _____
	Work Phone: _____
	Ext: _____
Best time to call: _____	Email: _____
<b>Caregiver Type:</b> _____	
Caregiver Name(s): _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	Zip Code: _____
	County: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Home Phone: _____
	Work Phone: _____
	Ext: _____
Best time to call: _____	Email: _____
<b>Language</b>	
Child's Primary Language/Mode of Communication: _____	
Primary Language Used in Home/Mode of Communication: _____	
Is an Interpreter needed for the family? _____	
<b>IFSP Information</b>	
Referral Date: _____	IFSP Periodic Due Date: _____
Initial IFSP Due Date: _____	Actual Periodic Date: _____
Actual Initial Date: _____	Annual Due Date: _____
Current IFSP Date: _____	Actual Annual Date: _____
IFSP Type:	Date Child turning 3: _____
<input type="radio"/> Interim <input type="radio"/> Initial <input type="radio"/> Periodic <input type="radio"/> Annual	Transition Due Between: _____ & _____
<b>Contact Information</b>	
Agency: _____	
Service Coordinator: _____	
Phone: _____	Ext: _____
	Fax: _____
	Email: _____
Address: _____	City: _____
	Zip: _____
Family Resource Specialist: _____	
Phone: _____	Ext: _____
	Fax: _____
	Email: _____
Address: _____	City: _____
	Zip: _____

# Your IFSP team may include some, all of these members, or more.

1 *Service Coordinator (PSC)*

2 *Infant & Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS)*

3 *Family Resource Specialist*

4 *Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP)*

5 *Physical Therapist (PT)*

6 *Occupational Therapist (OT)*



Early Intervention should  
be provided in the child's  
Natural **Environment**

**Inclusion** starts at home



# ONCE A YEAR

**the IFSP is Revised**



# Procedural Safeguards

**Right to Confidentiality - Protected by HIPPA**

**Right to Review your Child's Record**

**Prior Notice & Native Language**

**Parental Explicit Consent**

**Surrogate Parents**

**Mediation, Complaint Procedures,  
Due Process Hearing**

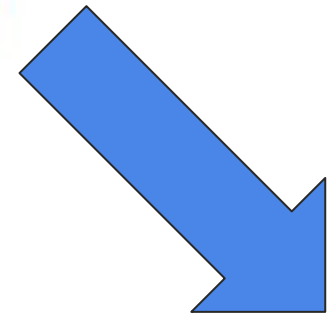
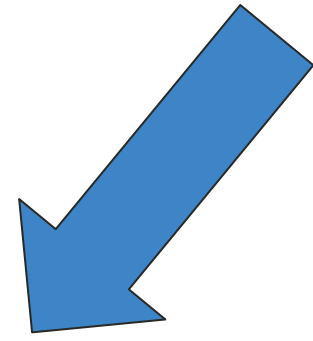


# Beginning the Journey II

Transitioning to the School System



TRANSITION  
**early**  
**steps**



Noneligible

Other  
Services

Eligible

Prekindergarten  
Program  
for Children with  
Disabilities



# If the child is found Eligible

## IDEA: Transition from Part C to Part B

1

Transition From  
Part C to Part B

2

Part B -  
Prekindergarten  
Program for  
Children with  
Disabilities

3

**Parent  
Involvement  
& Procedural  
Safeguards**





# Transitioning from **Early Intervention** to **Prekindergarten** Program for Children with **Disabilities**

# The Transition Process

## **IDEA, Individuals with Disabilities**

**Education Act**, requires the individualized **IFSP** transition plan to be completed for all children:



not more than  
9 months



not less than  
90 days

**NOTIFICATION Local School District /DOE**



# OPT-OUT Option



## Notification Opt-Out Form

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

The Local Early Steps (LES) is required to send notification information which includes the child's name, date of birth, parent(s) name, and parent(s) contact information to the Department of Education (DOE) and the local school district in which the child resides.

I object in writing to having the LES share my child's name, date of birth, my name, and contact information to the DOE and local school district in which I reside. I understand that if I do not sign below, this notification information will be shared.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# What Happens Next

- **Transition Conference**
- **Parent Consent** information release: *IFSP, evaluations, copy consent*
- **Service Coordinator** and **Representative from the School District**, with parent's authorization
- **Eligibility is confirmed**



# Initial IEP Meeting

## Individualized Education Plan

IFSP	IEP
Birth through age 3	Age 3-21
Family Focus	Child's Focus
Natural Environment	Least Restrictive Environment
Service Coordinator	ESE Teacher Primary Support
6 Months Review	Yearly Review
Team Based <b>IFSP</b>	Team Based <b>IEP</b>
Developmental Goals	Academic Goals
Early Intervention	Special Education
Part C IDEA	Part B IDEA

# The Purpose of the IEP

## Individualized Education Plan

The IEP has two general purposes:  
(1) to establish measurable annual goals for the child; and  
(2) to state the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services that the public agency will provide to, or on behalf of, the child.



# How Can Parents Become Active Participants?

Parents are Equal Members of the Team

Parents Have the Right to Disagree

Parents Provide Unique Information

Explicit Consent

**What can you do in the  
meantime?**

**Give your child natural  
opportunities at home to  
gain independence based  
on his or her personal  
abilities - Structure**





# **ONCE A YEAR**

**the IEP is Revised  
or as needed - Progress**

**INDIVIDUALIZED  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM**

# Procedural Safeguards

- **Access to Educational Records**  
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- **Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)**
- **Parent Participation**
- **Prior Written Notice**
- **Procedural Safeguards Notice**
- **Understandable Language**
- **Confidentiality of Information**
- **Informed Consent (or Parental Consent)**
- **“Stay Put” Rights**
- **Due Process**
- **Mediation**
- **State Complaint**





# FND

## FAMILY NETWORK ON DISABILITIES

founded in 1985 by a group of parents of children with disabilities who came together for mutual support and information-sharing



**FND**  
TRUST SERVICES



**FND**  
DADVOCATES



## **FAMILY NETWORK ON DISABILITIES**

Follow us on Social Media and  
take advantage of the free  
high-quality collection of  
resources available with just  
one click!

### **ESE DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES**

[fndusa.org/esedownload/](http://fndusa.org/esedownload/)  
[fndusa.org/special-healthcare-resources](http://fndusa.org/special-healthcare-resources)  
[fndusa.org/media/social-stories/](http://fndusa.org/media/social-stories/)  
[fndusa.org/media/sound-bank/](http://fndusa.org/media/sound-bank/)

### **EN ESPAÑOL**

[fndusa.org/recursos-educacion-especial/](http://fndusa.org/recursos-educacion-especial/)  
[fndusa.org/salud-necesidades-especiales/](http://fndusa.org/salud-necesidades-especiales/)



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@FND\_USA

[www.fndusa.org](http://www.fndusa.org)

## **FND UNIVERSITY**

A non-accredited online  
system specially  
designed to help  
parents and  
professionals learn  
more about special  
education at their own  
pace.

Available in English and Spanish at,  
[fndusa.org/fnduniversity/](http://fndusa.org/fnduniversity/)

# EVALUATION

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**Thank you!**

For more information,  
please contact:

**Family Network on  
Disabilities**

**Family Network on Disabilities**

26750 U.S. Highway 19 North,  
Suite 410

Clearwater, FL 33761

- [\(727\) 523-1130](tel:(727)523-1130)
- [\(800\) 825-5736](tel:(800)825-5736)
- [fnd@fndusa.org](mailto:fnd@fndusa.org)
- [www.fndusa.org](http://www.fndusa.org)

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