



[IDOE Kindergarten Transition Values](#): How Do They Work in First Steps?

Concrete examples of COLLABORATION

Before the transition meeting:

- Start by asking the family what they know about programs in their community. Families often know of new programs or changes in programs before practitioners hear of them!
- Share program options and key features (e.g., inclusive practices, cost, transportation). Do not pick and choose. Allow the families to make decisions.
- Support the family to contact programs in which they have expressed interest. If there is a wait list, ask the program representative if there are similar programs a family may access.
- Ask the family what you should know about holding a transition meeting and inviting outside people to their home. Are there cultural preferences or considerations?
- Leave time for these conversations. These should happen naturally at IFSP reviews and check-ins.
- Tell on-going therapists and anyone else the family wants to invite the date/time of transition meeting. Invite them to attend.



During the transition meeting:

- If part of the family's transition planning involves applying for other programs, support the family to identify where that paperwork is online and confirm that they are comfortable completing it (or support them to identify informal or formal resources who can help).
- Download apps or go online to locate resources a family may find useful (e.g., CDC Milestones Tracker, First Words Project, [Zerothree.org/resources/for-families/](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/for-families/), etc.)
- Brainstorm solutions for potential barriers (Ex: "I know your job isn't flexible and won't allow you to take time off to pick up your child from preschool. If attending this preschool is important to you, are there ways we can make sure your child attends?")

After the transition meeting:

- If you have a release, let chosen program(s) know if there are any changes before the child turns 3 (e.g., new concerns, address, phone numbers)
- If the child is being evaluated for preschool special education services, find out what day a child's evaluation and IEP meeting will be. Share this information with the ongoing therapist(s).
- If the family desires, consider attending an IEP meeting or a Head Start transition meeting.



Ways to Embrace Everyone:

- Can you tell us what school is like for a young child in your culture?
- Did you enjoy school as a child?
- Is there anything we can do to help you feel comfortable with the program you've chosen for your child?