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Bottom-Line Action Steps: Transition to Preschool

- Recognize that transition from early intervention to preschool is a process rather than an event. Attend and participate actively at every step along the way. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions.
- Consider the short- and long-term outcomes that you envision for your child and your family. This will help define more clearly what services and supports your child and your family may need in the school setting in order to reach future goals.
- Recognize that children with disabilities, including those with very significant disabilities, can still be successful in inclusive settings when staff are well prepared and when supplementary supports and services are provided.
- Keep open lines of communication with early intervention and preschool professionals during the transition process. Ask them about supports they can provide—having information in advance of meetings, having an opportunity to visit programs that are being considered for your child, and having a key person (including a veteran parent) to guide you through the process.
- Talk with other families about what their experiences have been with the transition process and find out if they have any tips or advice for you to consider.
- Know that you are an active decision maker in the transition process. Understand your rights as a parent under IDEA (the federal education law in the United States) and find out applicable state and local policies by contacting your state Parent Training and Information Center or by asking the early intervention or school program with which you are working.

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