



Special Education Services for Preschoolers with Disabilities

By Shanida Mathieu

Letting go is difficult for parents as their “babies” take the big step in moving on to preschool. When you have a child with a disability transitioning can be a bit more stressful; you may find yourself anxious and fearful of the unknown. After all, your child is still a baby and in the early stages of learning.

Although my son transitioned from early intervention services (IDEA | Part C birth to age 3) to preschool special education services twelve years ago, I still recall all

the questions that came to my mind like it was yesterday. For instance:

- **Who** will ensure my child’s needs are met?
- **What** services and supports will be provided and are they **FREE**?
- **Where** will my child receive special education services?
- **When** will services begin?
- **Why** public school services?

Section 619 of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) defines these questions about preschool programs and guarantees a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities age three through five. Under Part B, a preschool child who has a disability is entitled to Special Education and Related Services in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). There are several program options available for preschool children in this age group.

If your child is receiving early intervention services and it is suspected he/she will continue to need services beyond age 3, he/she will be referred to and evaluated by the local school system. It is beneficial

for parents to educate themselves about this process to get a better understanding of what to expect and the responsibility of all parties.

I'd like to invite you to join me for a live webinar where I will discuss "**The Early Childhood Transition Process**" to help prepare you for a smooth and effective transition.

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2017

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Audience: Parents, Caregivers, and Professionals of School-Aged Children/ Students.

To register online, please visit:

<http://ow.ly/gD7r309YpAG>



Changing Lives Every Day