

Transition Planning



Webster’s dictionary defines transition as “the passage from one state, stage or place to another.” Children with special needs make many transitions as they grow: from Early Intervention to preschool, from kindergarten to elementary school, from adolescence to adulthood and post-school options. Each transition is one step on a lifelong journey for children and their parents.

As parents, we can get caught up in day-to-day activities of raising our children, not giving much thought to tomorrow. However, it is necessary to stop, catch your breath, and think about your child’s transitions and about the future. Preparing for transitions should begin very early. Your role as parent or caregiver is to help your child gradually learn the skills needed to live as independently as possible. Academic skills are important for the journey. Another vital skill is the ability to ask for help when needed. More skills develop by participating in the community as fully as possible, living as independently as possible, and pursuing opportunities to find satisfaction in work and life-long learning. It is our job as parents to support our children as they travel through school to adulthood. To learn more about transitions, check out:

- Best Practices in Early Childhood Transition <http://www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention>
- Transition to Preschool <http://www.nichcy.org/babies/transitiontopreschool>
- National Early Childhood Transition Initiative <http://www.nectac.org/topics/transition/ectransitionta.asp>
- Turning Three Years Old: Transitioning from Early Start into the Preschool Years www.ccsesa.org/resources/CompleteEnglishTransitionBoo1.pdf
- Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten <http://www.nectac.org/topics/transtok/transtok.asp?text=1>
- Transition “Starters” for Everyone http://www.nichcy.org/educatechildren/transition_adulthood/pages/basics.aspx
- Transition from High school to adult life <http://www.matrixparents.org/pub/pdf/TransitioningFromHighSchooltoAdultLife.pdf>
- Post-Secondary Education www.thinkcollege.net and www.going-to-college.org/
- HRTW (Healthy and Ready to Work) National Resource Center <http://www.hrtw.org>
- The Road Forward: A DDS Guide for Transition Planning www.mass.gov/dds
- Going to Work: A Guide to Social Security Benefits and Employment for Young People with Disabilities <http://tinyurl.com/nv5cev>

For more Information, contact your **Family TIES Regional Coordinator**
at **1-800-905-8437** or **www.massfamilyties.org**