



10 THINGS FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

Before Transitioning from EI TO CPSE

A FAMILY CHECKLIST

Transitioning from Early Intervention (EI) to the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) is a big step. Use this checklist to help you feel informed, prepared, and empowered.



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CPSE IS NOT AN AUTOMATIC CONTINUATION OF EI. Your child must be evaluated and found eligible for preschool special education services. Receiving EI does not automatically mean your child will qualify for CPSE.

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START THE CONVERSATION EARLY. The transition process begins before your child turns three. Use this time to learn about CPSE, talk with your EI team, and decide whether to request an evaluation.

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THE SYSTEMS ARE DIFFERENT. EI is a family-centered early intervention system. CPSE is part of the special education system and focuses on how a disability affects your child's participation and progress in educational activities.

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EVALUATION IS ABOUT UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD. It provides information about intrinsics, development, and needs. It helps the CPSE determine eligibility and, if eligible, create an appropriate IEP.

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PARENTS ARE MEMBERS OF THE DECISION-MAKING TEAM. Share what you see, ask questions, express your priorities, and make sure you understand recommendations before decisions are finalized.

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SERVICES MAY LOOK DIFFERENT FROM EI. The frequency, duration, setting, and type of services in the IEP may be different. CPSE recommendations are based on your child's current educational needs.

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THINK BEYOND THERAPY HOURS. Ask: "What does my child need to participate, learn, communicate, build relationships, and become more independent?"

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THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT MATTERS. CPSE must consider how your child can receive appropriate supports while learning and participating with children without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.

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COME PREPARED WITH YOUR PRIORITIES. Identify your child's strengths, biggest concerns, and your top 3 outcomes. Bring questions and any relevant information.

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ELIGIBILITY IS NOT THE FINISH LINE—IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS. Understand the goals, services, accommodations, providers, and how progress will be measured. Continue to monitor and advocate for what your child needs to thrive.

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FAMILY ACTION STEPS

- ☐ Talk with your EI service coordinator about transition timelines.
- ☐ Decide if you want to request a CPSE evaluation.
- ☐ Write down your questions, concerns, and priorities.
- ☐ Gather reports, records, and information about your child.
- ☐ Attend the CPSE meeting and share your input.
- ☐ Review recommendations carefully and ask questions.
- ☐ Stay connected and monitor progress after services begin.



REMEMBER

EI → CPSE isn't simply a transfer of services. It's a transition from one system to another.



The goal is not to preserve every EI service exactly as it was.

The goal is to make sure the next plan reflects who your child is now, what they need to participate and learn, and what supports will help them thrive in preschool.

You know your child best.

Your voice matters.

Together, we can build a strong future.



EMPOWER
Knowledge is power.



VALUE
Every child. Every voice.



YIELD
Meaningful supports. Lasting impact.