

Heading to Preschool with an IEP

The following resources may be helpful for families with children entering preschool by providing a better understanding of the various preschool options available for children with IEPs, the importance of high-quality inclusion and the least restrictive environment, and where to go for more support or with questions about your child's education.

Transition from Early On® to Preschool:

We understand that transitions can feel overwhelming. If your child needs continued supports and is eligible for Part B services, there are resources to help support you during the transition from *Early On* and IFSPs to Early Childhood Special Education and IEPs.

[Transition to Preschool](#)

[Family Matters Special Education Individualized Education Program Fact Sheet](#)

[IEP Topics - Michigan Alliance for Families](#)

[Transition to Preschool and Other Programs](#)

Preschool Settings:

This is where a student with a disability receives special education and related services. Placement is an IEP team decision. IDEA requires placement in the least restrictive environment (LRE) for each child, a setting that is based on the child's IEP and that should be reviewed at least annually. It is important to remember that **special education is not a place**, and the preschool setting should be what is best for the child. This could mean special education is provided through walk-in services, a private preschool, and/or any of the following:

[ECSE](#)

[Great Start Readiness Program](#)

[Head Start Center for Inclusion](#)

[Early Head Start Programs](#)

[Key Elements of High-Quality Early Childhood Learning Environments: Preschool](#)

[Family Choice and Preschool Guidance](#)

High-Quality Inclusion and the Least Restrictive Environment:

Most students with disabilities should attend preschool with their non-disabled peers. We know that where a child attends preschool can set the trajectory for the rest of their educational career and life. We also know that high-quality inclusion and access to the Least Restrictive Environment benefits all students in the classroom—not just students with disabilities.

[Inclusion](#)

[School Inclusion | Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)

[Placement, Short-and-Sweet | Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)

[Indicators and Elements of High-Quality Inclusion](#)

[LRE-Continuum-PreK](#)

[LRE and Placement](#)

[Considering LRE in Placement Decisions | Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)

[Least Restrictive Environment \(LRE\): An English Translation of Key Legal Requirements](#)

[Preschool Inclusion Collective Action Plan](#)

[NAEYC Position Statement on Equity](#)

[NAEYC and DEC Joint Position Statement on Preschool Inclusion](#)

[Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs](#)

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Dispute Resolution:

Knowing and advocating for your rights is an important part of helping your child succeed in school. If you ever have a dispute with the school, it's important to have written documentation to support your position. IDEA includes a section called Procedural Safeguards. These safeguards are designed to protect the rights of parents and their child and provide a way to resolve their disputes. Parents have the right to disagree with decisions that the school system makes.

[Know Your Rights](#)

[Disputes](#)

[Quick Guide to Special Education Dispute Resolution Processes for Parents of Children & Youth \(Ages 3-21\)](#)

[Quick Guide to Early Intervention Dispute Resolution Processes for Families of Infants & Toddlers \(Birth through Age 2\)](#)

Advocacy and Communication:

Parents are a child's first and best advocate. Parents who learn good communication skills can be even more effective. It takes time, energy, and effort to build skills to communicate clearly and collaborate effectively. Becoming a more effective advocate by enhancing your communication skills can be a great benefit to your child's education.

[Parent Advocacy](#)

[How To Write a Parent Concerns Letter for your IEP that Gets Noticed Effectively Communicate](#)

Michigan Alliance for Families Learning Resources:

Michigan Alliance for Families is a statewide resource to connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children's education. We help facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities. Michigan Alliance for Families can assist you in knowing your rights, effectively communicating your child's needs, and advising how to help them develop and learn.

[MAF Staff Directory](#)

[Upcoming Events: Learning Opportunities - Michigan Alliance for Families](#)

[Videos - Michigan Alliance for Families](#)

[All Topics A-Z - Michigan Alliance for Families](#)

[Michigan Alliance for Families : Newsletter Sign Up](#)

[Michigan Alliance for Families | Lansing MI | Facebook](#)

Related State and Federal Resources:

[Early Childhood Special Education - Ages 3-5](#)

[Part B, Section 619 of IDEA](#)

[Special Education Services for Preschoolers with Disabilities](#)

[Parent Survey—Special Education for children ages 3 through 5](#)

[State Performance Plan - Michigan Alliance for Families](#)