

The following scenario provides an example of compliance with this section:

Mario's Story



Mario, at two years six months, has been receiving early intervention services through California Early Start since his diagnosis of profound deafness at four months of age. Mario's hearing, with hearing aids, is in the mild range across the speech spectrum. He has received special instruction in his home; he and his parents have received service coordination, respite, and parent education from the LEA program.

Sample Steps for Mario

An outcome statement was written in Mario's IFSP: "In order for Mario to have a smooth transition at age three, Mario's family will be provided information regarding the transition process over the next year." At the IFSP review, steps to prepare Mario and his family for the transition were added as follows:

Two years six months A transition summary will be completed, with assistance from the family, and will be given to the receiving school district. This summary will include the following family priority regarding transition: "Mario will have access to children who are deaf or hard of hearing or are learning language orally and to adults who know and use sign language."

Person/agency responsible: Service coordinator, LEA Early Start program

Two years nine months An IFSP/transition conference will be held with the representatives from the school district of residence. The specific timelines for the transition, including any needed assessments, will be discussed. If agreed upon by the team, Mario and his family will have some visits with the early intervention staff in the classroom for children who are deaf/hard of hearing. The purpose of these visits is to assist Mario in moving to a preschool setting and enable the family to observe the program and interact with the district staff.

Person/agency responsible: Service coordinator, LEA Early Start program

By Mario's third birthday An IEP meeting will be held and the IFSP will be concluded. Goals and objectives will be written in the IEP and a placement determined. Other related services, such as therapy and transportation, will be indicated in the IEP. A start date for services will be decided and also documented in the IEP.

Person/agency responsible: The receiving school district and service coordinator, LEA Early Start program

Table 2. Timeline for a Child Referred for Special Education Services at Age Three

Child's age	Mandatory actions by the sending agency/ California Early Start service coordinator	Recommendations for effective practice
By 2 years	<p>Transition steps are included on the individualized family service plan (IFSP).</p> <p><i>Note:</i> An IFSP must always include a statement of the transition steps to be initiated when the child reaches 2 years 9 months (or, at the discretion of the parties, 2 years 6 months).</p>	Obtain parental consent/release to exchange information between the sending and receiving agencies (including the LEA).
Between 2 years 3 months and 2 years 9 months	<p>Notify the family of an IFSP/transition conference within the next three months.</p> <p>With parental consent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the LEA of a mutually agreed-on date for a meeting to identify transition steps. • Send information to the receiving LEA, including evaluations and assessments, and copies of all IFSPs. 	<p>Obtain current medical and developmental information.</p> <p>Discuss with the family the information to be shared about the child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family priorities and concerns related to the transition • Current developmental information • Health (including vision and hearing) • Equipment needs • Current services
30 days later	An IFSP/transition conference is scheduled at a mutually agreed-on date.	The time and location of the IFSP/transition conference are determined by the preferences of the family. The conference includes all appropriate agency personnel.

Handbook on Developing Individualized Family Service Plans and Individualized Education Programs in Early Childhood Special Education. Sacramento: California Department of Education, 2001, pp. 17-19, 47-48.

**Table 4. Referral, Assessment, and Placement
Under Part B of the IDEA**

Process	Action and timeline
<p>Referral for Assessment - A parent, teacher, or another person may request a referral in writing. (EC § 56029)</p>	<p>A written referral is received.</p>
<p>Assessment Plan - Within 15 calendar days of the referral (excluding school vacations of more than five days), an assessment plan is developed and a copy given to the parents along with notification of parents' rights and responsibilities. (EC § 56321 [a])</p>	<p>Within 15 days an assessment plan is developed.</p>
<p>Parental Consent - Written parent permission must be obtained to begin the assessment. Parents have at least 15 calendar days to make a decision. (EC § 56321 [c])</p>	<p>Parents have 15 days to decide to consent to the assessment.</p>
<p>IEP Team - Within 50 calendar days of receipt of a signed assessment plan (excluding school vacations of more than five days), an IEP team meeting is held and an IEP is developed for a student eligible for special education. (EC § 56344)</p> <p>Parents must be invited to any meeting regarding the child's eligibility for an IEP and must be given reasonable notice in advance to ensure their attendance. (EC § 56341.5)</p>	<p>Within 50 days an IEP meeting is held.</p> <p>Parents must receive a notice of their child's eligibility for special education and advance notice of IEP meetings.</p>
<p>Parental Consent - Written permission must be obtained from the parents for placement of the child in special education and the implementation of the IEP. Those parts of the IEP to which the parent has consented may be implemented. (EC § 56346[a])</p>	<p>Recommendations of the IEP approved by the parents are implemented.</p>
<p>Placement - The recommended placement and services should begin as soon as possible after the date of the parent's written approval of the IEP. (5 CCR § 3040[a])</p>	
<p>Annual Review - A student in special education must have his/her IEP reviewed at least every 12 months. (EC § 56380)</p>	<p>The IEP is reviewed annually.</p>