

*Connecting families
with tools, resources, and support
to empower every child's journey*



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Smooth transitions build confident kids

The transition into a new learning environment is a major milestone for young children, especially those receiving early intervention services. Whether a child is moving into a preschool program for the first time or preparing to take the next step into kindergarten, each transition represents growth, new opportunities, and a chance to build on the strong foundation created during their earliest years.

For families enrolling their young children into preschool programs, the process can feel both exciting and overwhelming. Preschool introduces new routines, new peers, and a more structured learning environment. A thoughtful transition process helps families understand what to expect and ensures that each child's strengths and needs are clearly communicated.

The transition to kindergarten is a milestone filled with excitement, curiosity, and a bit of uncertainty. For children receiving early intervention services, this shift represents more than a new classroom or a new teacher. It marks a significant step toward greater independence, new routines, and expanded learning opportunities. For families and educators, it's a moment to celebrate progress while thoughtfully planning the support that will help each child thrive.

As schools welcome young learners with diverse strengths and needs, understanding the unique considerations for early intervention students becomes essential. From individualized transition plans to family-centered conversations, our goal is simple: Create a smooth, supportive pathway that honors each child's developmental journey.

Upcoming Events

27
JAN

LICC Meeting
[More information](#)

17
FEB

PEI CLOSED

4-6
MAR

PEI CLOSED



BEHAVIOR BITS

Helping children through transitions

Everyday Transitions

Transitions are an important part of every preschooler's day, whether it's moving from one activity to another or preparing for a bigger change like transitioning to kindergarten. Children receiving early intervention may need extra time, practice, and support to feel confident during these moments. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and gentle reminders help children understand what's coming next and reduce anxiety. Using visual schedules, countdowns, songs, or simple language can make transitions smoother at home and at school.

As families and providers work together, we can help children build flexibility, independence, and confidence — skills that will support them not only during daily transitions, but also as they take the exciting next step into kindergarten.

Transition to Kindergarten

Preparing for kindergarten looks different for every child, especially those receiving PEI services. Through collaboration with families and school districts, PEI supports smooth, well-planned transitions so children are ready for success on their first day of kindergarten.

- ➔ [Read more about how PEI supports kindergarten transition.](#)
- ➔ [Print Kindergarten, Here I Come Activity Guide in English or in Spanish.](#)

Digital tools to help with transition

[Help children transition between activities](#)

[Help children transition between places](#)

[Create transition visual cards](#)

[Offer visual supports for schedules and routines](#)

["I go to preschool in the car"](#)

Books about big changes

Books help children navigate big changes — like starting school or separation — by normalizing feelings and offering reassurance through gentle, relatable stories.

➔ [Get book recommendations.](#)



Contact Alicia Sebastian

Behavior Support Specialist, PEI



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FAMILY RESOURCES

Empowering families to support every child's success

For Routine Transitions

- Visual cues: Use picture cards for daily schedules.
- Songs and rhymes: Sing transition songs or create silly movement songs.
- Games: Play "Red Light, Green Light," "Follow the Leader," or "Animal Parade" (walk like an elephant, hop like a frog) as you move.
- Countdown timers: Count down from 10 while moving, maybe with animal sounds, to build anticipation.
- Movement challenges: Take giant or baby steps, use "Rainbow Movement" (jump for red, spin for blue), or form shapes.
- Transition objects: Allow child to carry a special object to the next activity for a sense of control.
- Color hunts: Play "I Spy" or name colors as you walk to a new area.

For Major Transitions

- Establish routines: Consistent morning and bedtime routines help children feel secure.
- Explore together: Visit the new school, classroom, playground before the first day.
- Pretend play: Act out school scenarios (circle time, nap time) at home.
- Talk and validate feelings: Discuss upcoming change and acknowledge their feelings.
- Build connections: Arrange playdates with future classmates if possible.

Learning is Everywhere

Support your child's learning through simple, everyday activities using items you already have at home. Explore themed early learning activities, and find matching book lists to extend the learning. For example, during the month of January, focus on activities [in the kitchen](#). In February, talk about the [inside of the doctor's office](#).

➔ Print the full calendar [in English](#) or [in Spanish](#).

Preschool Enrollment

Thinking about the transition to a preschool program next year? Community Preschools and Early Childhood Programs are now enrolling for 2026-2027.

➔ [Explore programs in your community.](#)

Family Survey

Your voice is important! Responses will be used to improve Early Intervention services.

➔ [Please complete the survey](#) before May 31, 2026.

For assistance with resources, contact Marsha Androsik

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GET CONNECTED

Creating a stronger link between home and school



Early Intervention Technical Assistance Portal (EITA)

EITA supports families statewide by strengthening the quality of Early Intervention services through training and resources.



[Subscribe](#)



[View events](#)

Keep Current

Stay connected with your child's PEI services on Keep Current. Access IEPs and evaluation reports, review session notes, and sign forms. Need help logging in? Contact your child's team.



mykeepcurrent.com

Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)

The LICC unites families, professionals, and community members to strengthen Early Intervention for young children with developmental delays and disabilities.



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Visit the [LICC Website](#) to register for meetings.

Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

The SICC is a Governor-appointed council that works with the Departments of Health, Education, and Human Services to ensure Early Intervention services are available and coordinated for children and families.



To receive updates and register for meetings, email RA-PWSICC@pa.gov.

Parent to Parent

Parent to Parent links families with shared experiences to provide encouragement and support. No parent should feel alone.



1-888-727-2706



parenttoparent.org



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Procedural Safeguards

You can find the [Procedural Safeguards](#) anytime in your Parent Library on [Keep Current](#), or request a copy from our office. If you have questions or concerns about your child's services, talk with your child's teacher or therapist – or call our office to connect with a PEI Supervisor.

Contact PEI



412-394-5986



[PEI website](#)