

Transition Alert

Improving the transition process for young children, their families and the professionals who work with them through an examination of factors that promote successful transitions between infant/toddler programs, preschool programs, and public school programs for young children with disabilities and their families.

126 Mineral Industries Bldg.
Lexington, KY 40506-0051

Phone:
(859) 257-2081

Toll Free:
(866) 742-4015

Fax:
(859) 257-2769

E-mail:
cjgood2@email.uky.edu

Prepared by
Caroline Gooden and
Dr. Beth Rous,
University of Kentucky

New Technical Report Available on Nationally Validated Transition Practices

Researchers at NECTC have completed a series of studies to identify socially valid transition practices. The final study in the series used a national validation survey to determine: (a) the extent to which early childhood professionals agree on a set of recommended practices for early childhood transition; and (b) whether there are specific transition practices that are perceived as more readily accepted or socially valid than others. Surveys were sent to a random sample of just under 3,000 individuals from the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, with a final sample of 412 individuals. A total of 21 practices, identified through extensive prior NECTC studies, were included on the survey. Eleven practices were categorized as focusing primarily on the *Interagency Service System* (e.g., inter-agency structure, continuity and alignment, communication and relationships). The remaining 10 practices were categorized as focusing primarily on *Child and Family Preparation and Adjustment*. All 21 practices (100%) were validated by 75% of the respondents, and 20 (95%) were validated at 90% level for *agreement* or *strong agreement* with the practice. The final set of recommended practices include the following and the full technical report is available on the NECTC website (<http://www.ihdi.uky/nectc>).

Interagency Service System

- A primary contact person for transition is identified within each program or agency.
- Community- and program-wide transition activities & timelines are identified.
- Referral processes & timelines are clearly specified.
- Enrollment processes & timelines are clearly specified.
- Program eligibility processes & timelines are clearly delineated.
- Agencies develop formal mechanisms to minimize disruptions in services before, during, & after the transition of the child and family.
- Staff & family members are actively involved in design of transition processes & systems.
- Staff roles & responsibilities for transition activities are clearly delineated.
- Conscious & transparent connections are made between curricula & child expectations across programs/environments.
- Methods are in place to support staff-to-staff communication within & across programs.
- Families meaningfully participate as partners with staff in program- & community-wide transition efforts.

Child and Family Preparation and Adjustment

- Individual child & family transition meetings are conducted.
- Staff follow-up on children after the transition to support their adjustment.
- Team members share appropriate information about each child making a transition.
- Transition plans are developed that include individual activities for each child & family.
- Staff know key information about a broad array of agencies & services available within the community.
- Children have opportunities to develop & practice skills they need to be successful in the next environment.
- Families are aware of the importance of transition planning & have information they need to actively participate in transition planning with their child.
- Families' needs related to transition are assessed & addressed.
- Families have information about and are linked with resources & services to help them meet their specific child & family needs.
- Families actively participate in gathering information about their child's growth & development.

<http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/nectc>



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For further information, the full Technical Report #3 is now available on the NECTC website (<http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/nectc>).

Also Available from NECTC

Many new documents are available on the website pertaining to the transitions of young children with disabilities.

Transition Alerts

At-a-glance information on new resources and materials related to transition.

Research Briefs

Short papers that provide a summary of research findings and conceptual work.

Research Spotlights

Short papers on research methods and tools used to gather data during NECTC studies.

Papers/Reports

Technical reports and papers presenting findings from NECTC studies.

Presentations

PowerPoint and Poster presentations conducted by NECTC researchers at national conferences and meetings.

Additional Resources

IDEA 2004: One-stop shop for information on IDEA 2004 and implications for transition.

Project Information

Brochures and information on the activities of NECTC, including timelines, study goals and timelines, and contact information for NECTC researchers and staff.

Measures and Instruments

Copies of measures and instruments used for NECTC studies.

On-Line Database

An on-line, searchable database of transition resources and materials. Bookmark this Site:

For more specific information on the activities of the center, go to <http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/nectc/> or contact the project office at 859-257-2081 or toll free at 866-742-4015.

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