

# A Family Guide to Next Steps

When Your Child in Early Intervention Turns Three

Families have a choice.



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services  
Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program/Preschool Special Education Services

REVISED JULY 2014

Maryland's  
*Birth  
through  
Five*  
Early  
Childhood  
Intervention  
& Education

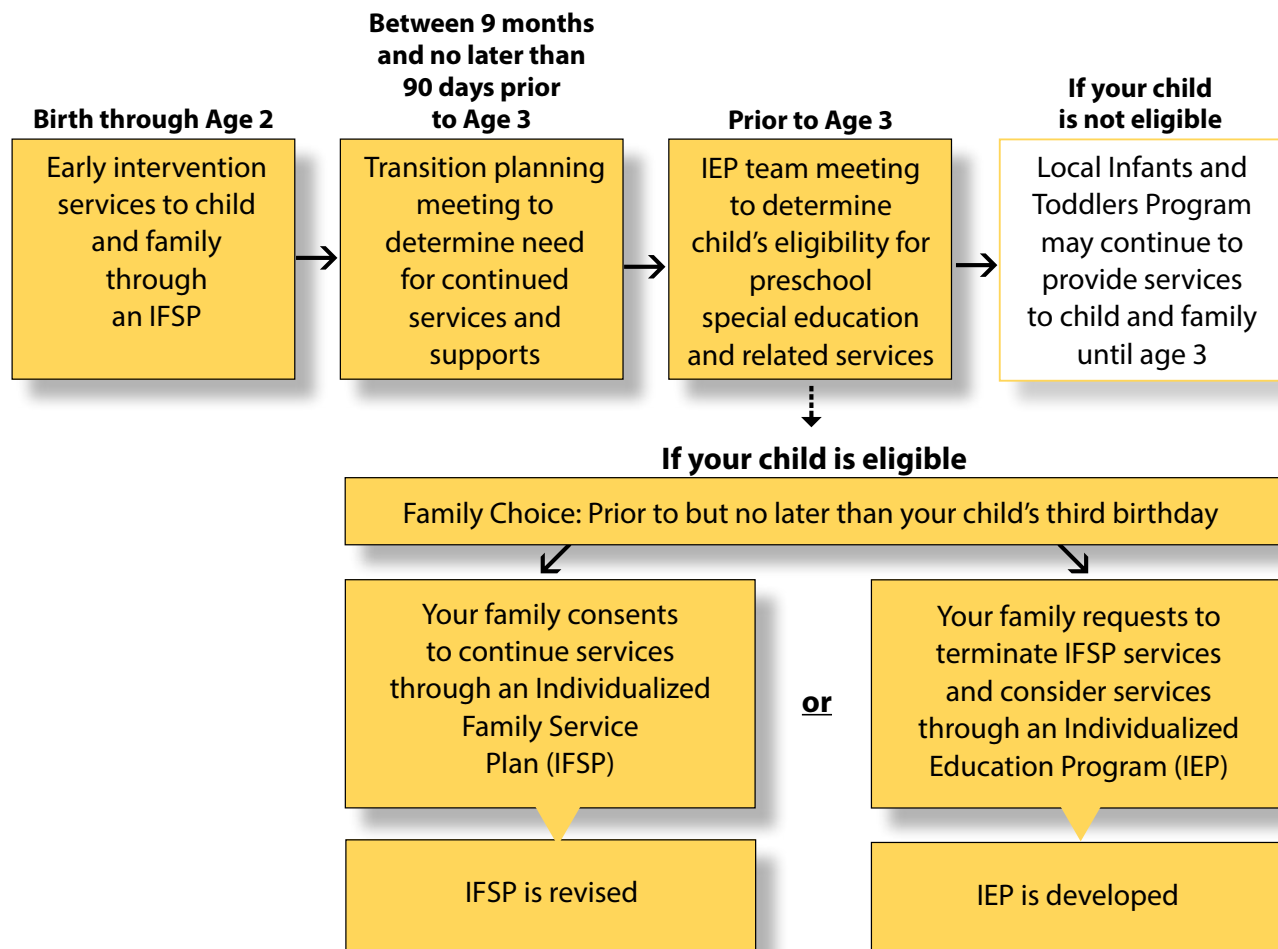
System of Services  
For Young Children  
With Disabilities  
and Their Families



# Before Your Child Turns 3

## *Prepare For Next Steps in Early Childhood Intervention and Education*

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) offers families the option to extend early intervention services through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) after age 3 until the beginning of the school year following a child's fourth birthday. As part of this option, by age three, your family can choose to continue services through an IFSP. Children currently enrolled in a local Infants and Toddlers Program **and** who are found eligible for preschool special education and related services will have the opportunity to continue services through an IFSP **or** move to an Individualized Education Program (IEP).





# From Age 3 Until the Beginning of the School Year Following Your Child's 4th Birthday

*Choosing to Receive Services Through the IFSP Option or Through the IEP Option*

## Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Option

or

## Individualized Education Program (IEP) Option

To choose the IFSP Option, your child and family must have a current IFSP through a local Infants and Toddlers Program and your local school system must have determined that your child is eligible for preschool special education and related services.

To choose the IEP Option, your local school system must have determined that your child is eligible for preschool special education and related services.

Individualized *Family Service Plan*

Individualized *Education Program*

*Service coordination* to support IFSP implementation across agencies

*IEP team process* to ensure IEP implementation

Services in *natural* environments

Services in the *least restrictive* environment

*Continuous year-round* services

*Extended school-year* services, if the child is eligible

*Family support and training* through IFSP outcomes

*Parent education* through some services and programs

*IFSP includes an educational component* to continue the child's school readiness skill development

*Child receives preschool special education and related services* to continue school readiness skill development

At any time, you may choose to request termination of IFSP services and consider preschool special education and related services through an IEP. IFSP services continue until services through an IEP are scheduled to begin or until the beginning of the school year following the child's fourth birthday, whichever occurs sooner.

Once you make the choice (through written notification to the local Infants and Toddlers Program) to terminate services through an IFSP and pursue services through an IEP, the choice to return to services through an IFSP is no longer available.

Services Through An IFSP

Services Through An IEP

### To Help Your Family Choose

Implementation of service delivery models and location of services vary through the local jurisdictions in Maryland. Your local Infants and Toddlers Program will support you in making the best choice that meets the needs of your child and family. Please see inside for a side-by-side look at the IFSP and the IEP option.



In accordance with IDEA 2004, 20 U.S.C. sec.1435 and Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.13.01.09B(8)(a), parents are required to receive this Annual Notice of the Extended IFSP Option to assist in decision-making.

# To Help Your Family Choose

## *A Side-By-Side Look at the IFSP and IEP Options*

### Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Option

or

### Individualized Education Program (IEP) Option

#### Services Through an IFSP

#### Services Through an IEP

#### Free Appropriate Public Education

- Maryland assures a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for all students with disabilities, birth through the end of the school year in which the student turns 21 years old.
- While all eligible children are entitled to a free appropriate public education, the service models and types of services vary.

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#### System of Payment

- Parents are not charged for services.
- Medicaid, with parental consent, may apply to health-related services and case management only.
- Private insurance, with parental consent, may apply to health-related services only for children who have both private insurance and Medicaid coverage. If denied by private insurance, Medicaid is billed. If paid by private insurance, in rare instances, parents are reimbursed costs.

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#### Individualized Plan or Program

- An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) means a written plan for providing early intervention and other services to an eligible child and the child's family.
- The IFSP is reviewed at least every six months and the IFSP is revised at least annually by the IFSP team, which includes the child's parent.
- The IFSP includes present levels of development; family concerns, priorities, and resources; measurable child and family outcomes; and early intervention services and service linkages.
- The IFSP specifically requires the designation of a service coordinator to ensure appropriate implementation and coordination of the plan across agencies with which the family is involved.
- The IFSP focuses on both the child and the family within their daily routines.

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) means a written plan for providing special education and related services to a student with a disability.
- The IEP is developed, reviewed, and revised at least annually by an IEP team, which includes the child's parent.
- The IEP includes present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, measurable annual goals with benchmarks or short-term objectives, special education and related services and supplementary aids, program modifications and supports, and individual accommodations as necessary.
- The IEP focuses primarily on how the child's disability affects the child's participation in appropriate activities.





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# To Help Your Family Choose

*A Side-By-Side Look at the IFSP and IEP Options, continued*

## Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Option

**or**

## Individualized Education Program (IEP) Option

### Services Through an IFSP

### Services Through an IEP

#### Parent Consent

- The contents of the IFSP are fully explained to the parent and informed written consent from the parent is obtained before early intervention services described in the IFSP begin.
- If the parent does not provide consent with respect to a particular early intervention service, or if the parent withdraws consent after first providing it, that service may NOT be provided.
- **Only** the early intervention services to which parental consent is obtained are provided.

- A parent is required to consent for evaluation and the special education and related services within the child's IEP before services are provided.
- If, at any time after the initial provision of special education and related services, the parent revokes consent in writing for the continued provision of special education and related services, the public agency must terminate the provision of **all** services specified in the child's IEP.

#### Notice Of Procedural Safeguards

- Parental notice includes:
- Opportunity to Examine Records
  - Prior Notice
  - Native Language
  - Parent Consent
  - Parent Surrogate
  - Dispute Resolution
    - Written State Complaint
    - Impartial Due Process Complaint
    - Resolution Session
    - Services During Pendency of Proceeding
    - Mediation
  - Confidentiality
  - Attorney's Fees

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    - Resolution Session
    - Services During Pendency of Proceeding
    - Mediation
  - Confidentiality
  - Attorney's Fees
  - Independent Educational Evaluation
  - Discipline of Children with Disabilities
  - Transfer of Rights at Age of Majority

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# To Help Your Family Choose

*A Side-By-Side Look at the IFSP and IEP Options, continued*

## Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Option

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### Services Through an IFSP

### Services Through an IEP

#### Types of Services

Early intervention services necessary to meet the unique needs of the child and the child's family are provided. Services include special instruction designed to meet the developmental needs of a young child with a developmental delay or disability.

Early intervention services may include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation
- Speech and language pathology services
- Assistive technology services, which may include assistive technology devices
- Audiology services
- Psychological services
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Social work services
- Early identification, screening, and assessment services
- Medical services only for diagnostic or evaluation purposes
- Vision services
- Family training, counseling, and home visits
- Nursing
- Nutrition services
- Service coordination
- Respite: a child care-type service provided to enable parent(s) to participate or receive other early intervention services in order to meet the outcomes on a child's IFSP
- Continuous year-round services for all children

Special education is specially designed instruction that ensures the child access to the general education curriculum to meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children.

Related services, if determined necessary, to enable the child to benefit from special education may include:

- Transportation
- Speech and language pathology services
- Assistive technology services, which may include assistive technology devices
- Audiology services
- Psychological services
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Social work services
- Early identification and assessment services
- Medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes
- Vision services, including orientation and mobility services
- Parent counseling and training
- Interpreting services
- Recreation, including therapeutic recreation
- Student counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling
- School health services
- School nurse services
- Extended school year services if the IEP team determines the individual student eligible



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### Services Through an IFSP

### Services Through an IEP

#### *Natural Environment*

- Children are served in settings that are natural, including the home and community settings in which children without disabilities participate.
- IFSP services may be provided in a setting other than a natural environment only if early intervention and education cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment. A justification of the extent, if any, to which the services will not be provided in a natural environment is required and must be based on the needs of the child.

Examples of natural environments may include:

- Home
- Public or private community settings including but not limited to:
  - Public school preschool and pre-kindergarten programs
  - Private community preschool and pre-kindergarten programs
  - Head Start/Early Head Start
  - Judith Hoyer Center Partnerships
  - Child care centers
  - Family child care providers
  - Parks and recreation programs
  - Cooperative play groups
  - Libraries
  - Other child serving programs

#### *Least Restrictive Environment*

- To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities, including students in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with students who are not disabled; and
- Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of students with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Examples of least restrictive environments may include:

- Home
- Public or private community settings including but not limited to:
  - Public school preschool and pre-kindergarten programs
  - Private community preschool and pre-kindergarten programs
  - Head Start/Early Head Start
  - Judith Hoyer Center Partnerships
  - Child care centers
  - Family child care providers
  - Parks and recreation programs
  - Cooperative play groups
  - Libraries
  - Other child serving programs
- Service provider location
- Public or private day school
- Public or private residential school

### Location of Services

# More resources for families:

For additional information, contact your

## Local Infants and Toddlers Program

Allegany County	301-759-2415
Anne Arundel County	410-222-6911
Baltimore City	410-396-1666
Baltimore County	410-887-2169
Calvert County	410-414-7034
Caroline County	410-479-3246
Carroll County	410-876-4437
Cecil County	410-996-5444
Charles County	301-609-6808
Dorchester County	410-221-1111, x1023
Frederick County	301-600-1612
Garrett County	301-533-0240
Harford County	410-638-3823
Howard County	410-313-7017
Kent County	410-778-8486
Montgomery County	240-777-3997
Prince George's County	301-265-8415
Queen Anne's County	410-827-4629, x10
Somerset County	410-623-2037
St. Mary's County	301-475-5511, x32223
Talbot County	410-820-0319
Washington County	301-766-8217
Wicomico County	410-677-5250
Worcester County	410-632-5033
Maryland School for the Blind	410-444-5000
Maryland School for the Deaf	410-480-4545

## Online Resources

[www.MarylandLearningLinks.org](http://www.MarylandLearningLinks.org)



Maryland Learning Links offers information and resources related to Early Intervention and Special Education in Maryland. Whether you are an administrator, teacher, provider or parent, you are sure to benefit from the site's comprehensive and user-friendly blend of knowledge and real-world practice, all of it built on the belief that every child can learn and achieve both inside and outside the classroom. Maryland Learning Links was developed and produced by the Maryland State, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University, Center for Technology in Education.

[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org)



The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/ Early Intervention Services provides leadership, support, and accountability for results to local school systems, public agencies, and stakeholders through a seamless system of coordinated services to children and students with disabilities, birth through 21, and their families.

## Additional resources and information may be provided by the:

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