

§300.111 Child Find. (b) (1) A State that adopts a definition of developmental delay under § 300.8(b) determines whether the term applies to children aged three through nine, or to a subset of that age range (e.g., ages three through five).

(2) A State may not require an LEA to adopt and use the term developmental delay for any children within its jurisdiction.

(3) If an LEA uses the term developmental delay for children described in § 300.8(b), the LEA must conform to both the State's definition of that term and to the age range that has been adopted by the State.

(4) If a State does not adopt the term developmental delay, an LEA may not independently use that term as a basis for establishing a child's eligibility under this part.

See also the Oklahoma Special Education Handbook, Chapter 2: Child Find.

## Considerations

Consider what the goals for the child are before considering placement. Goals and objectives should drive placement.

## What services for children ages 3-5 might look like:

- Developmentally Delayed Preschool Classroom
- Speech-Language Pathology Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Physical Therapy Services
- Public Preschool
- Head Start
- Private Preschool
- Child Care Center
- Library Story Hour
- Mother's Day Out
- Health Department Play Groups
- Native American Services
- Community Recreation Groups



# Preschool

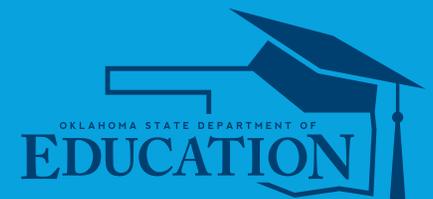
## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Transition from SoonerStart											
Child's Age in Months	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	3rd Birthday →	
IFSP Initial Transition Planning Meeting *(27-33 months)	■										
Notification to the LEA	■										
Transition Planning Conference *(27-33 months)	■										
	■										
Evaluation by LEA							■				
Eligibility Meeting ** (by 3rd birthday)							■				
IEP Meeting ** (by 3rd birthday)							■				
IEP in Effect ** (by 3rd birthday)										→	

\*Oklahoma SoonerStart Early Intervention Program Manual: Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines. Items in green are the responsibility of SoonerStart.

\*\*Oklahoma Special Education Handbook. Items in blue are the responsibility of the local school district.

AIDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO CHILDREN AGES 3-5



## What are Preschool Special Education Services?

Preschool special education services are those provided by the local education agencies (LEAs) to students ages three to five. These services are referred to in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA, PL 108-446), Section 619. School districts (LEAs) are responsible for providing services to children with special needs beginning at age three. This information can be found in the Federal Regulations, § 300.8 Child with a disability. (b) Children aged three through nine experiencing developmental delays. Child with a disability for children aged three through nine (or any subset of that age range, including ages three through five), may, subject to the conditions described in § 300.111(b), include a child:

- (1) Who is experiencing developmental delays, as defined by the State and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development; and
- (2) Who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

## Transition

If the prospective student is coming from SoonerStart (Part C of IDEA) to the LEA (Part B of IDEA) then the transition process applies.

§ 300.124 Transition of children from the Part C (SoonerStart) program to preschool programs.

The State must have in effect policies and procedures to ensure that:

- (a) Children participating in early intervention programs assisted under Part C (SoonerStart) of the Act, and who will participate in preschool programs assisted under Part B of the Act, experience a smooth and effective transition to those preschool programs in a manner consistent with section 637 (a)(9) of the Act;
- (b) By the third birthday of a child described in paragraph (a) of this section, an IEP or, if consistent with § 300.323(b) and section 636(d) of the Act, an IFSP,

has been developed and is being implemented for the child consistent with § 300.101(b); and (c) Each affected LEA will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the designated lead agency (SoonerStart) under section 635(a)(10) of the Act.

## Transition from SoonerStart

### Notification to the LEA

The transition process from SoonerStart services ranges from 27-33 months. If the child is potentially eligible for Part B services, SoonerStart will send a *Notification to the LEA*, which they must provide to the LEA (and the Oklahoma State Department of Education-Special Education Services (OSDE-SES)) at least 90 days before the child's third birthday. This notification will include the child's name, date of birth, and the parent or guardian contact information (name(s), address, and phone number(s)). This is simply a notification for Child Find purposes. No action by the LEA is required at this time.

A *potentially eligible child* is one who was:

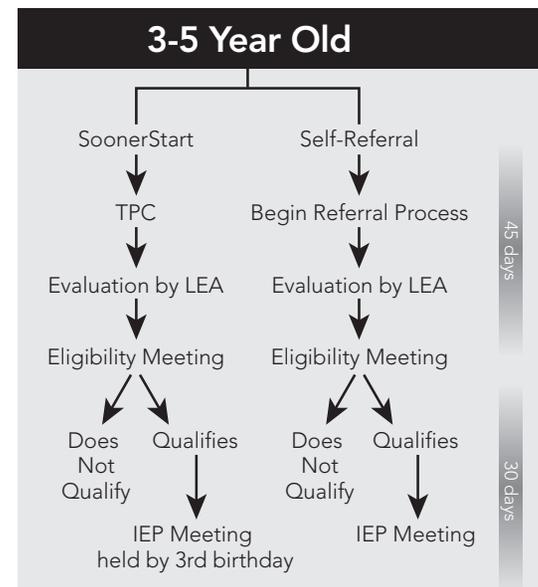
- Determined eligible for SoonerStart early intervention services by a multidisciplinary evaluation team; and/or
- Enrolled in SoonerStart early intervention services who has not met all outcomes on his or her Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP); and/or
- Enrolled in SoonerStart early intervention services who is demonstrating a delay in any developmental domain based on the expertise of a member of the IFSP team.

Providing the *Notification to the LEA* to the OSDE-SES ensures seamless transition services for infants and toddlers with disabilities served in the SoonerStart program.

## Transition Planning Conference

The Transition Planning Conference (TPC) will be held not fewer than 90 days or more than 9 months before the child's third birthday. The TPC is a meeting between SoonerStart personnel and a representative from the LEA. If the parent has given consent, the LEA may have received a copy of the IFSP and evaluation information prior to the TPC. During the meeting, the SoonerStart service coordinator will introduce team members, and review any informa-

tion. The LEA representative will then discuss the evaluation procedure and answer any questions from parents or other team members. When this meeting is complete, it is the responsibility of the LEA to continue the process of evaluation. The evaluation, eligibility meeting, and IEP (if applicable) must occur by the child's third birthday. See chart on page 6 for a visual representation of this process.



## Late Referrals

A child is considered a late referral to SoonerStart if he/she is determined eligible for SoonerStart services on or after 33 months of age (or less than 90 days from the child's third birthday).

## Child Find

If a child is referred less than 45 days prior to his/her third birthday, SoonerStart (with parental consent) will directly refer the family to the LEA or other community services. The LEA may also have families that have *not received early intervention* (SoonerStart) contact them (self-referral). In these cases, the child would be considered a child under Child Find and the referral process would proceed as usual. See flow chart for a visual representation of this process.