CLARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

My Child Is Turning 3, What Happens Next?

A guide for parents and guardians

A NEW MILESTONE. A TEAM BESIDE YOU.

Turning 3 is an exciting milestone! It can also bring questions about your child's development and available support. Whether your child receives Birth to Three services or you are reaching out for the first time, we can help you understand the next steps.

My child receives Birth to Three services. What changes?

Birth to Three supports eligible children and families before a child's third birthday. Beginning at age 3, children who qualify may receive special education through their local school district.

This change is called a **transition**: planning together for what comes next. Birth to Three eligibility does not automatically mean your child qualifies for school district special education. The school team, including you, reviews information to determine eligibility.

When should we begin planning?

Start before your child turns 3. For children already receiving Birth to Three services, a transition plan is developed at least 90 days before the third birthday and may be developed earlier. With your approval, a transition meeting connects your family, Birth to Three, and the school district to discuss possible preschool services.

What happens during the transition?

1. We listen to you. Share your child's strengths, interests, routines, and areas where help is needed.

2. We review information. The team considers existing evaluations and information from your family and providers.

3. We discuss evaluation needs. If more evaluation is needed, the school explains the proposed evaluation and asks for your permission.

4. We discuss eligibility together. You and the team review results and your child's educational needs.

5. We plan needed support. If your child qualifies, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) describes goals, services, and supports.

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YOUR LOCAL TEAM & NEXT STEPS

Who will help our family?

Kelly Bradberry is Clark County's Birth to Three service coordinator. She helps families plan for the transition and connect with the school district.

Debra Jensen, the Northeast Educational Cooperative (NESC) Early Childhood Special Education Instructor, and related service providers also help your child transition smoothly to school district services. Together with your family, the team shares information, answers questions, and plans next steps. **You are an important part of the team.**

Will services be ready when my child turns 3?

For children transitioning from Birth to Three who qualify for school district special education, an IEP must be developed and implemented by the third birthday. If the birthday falls during summer, the IEP team determines when services will begin. If your child is almost 3 or has already turned 3, contact us now so we can discuss next steps.

What if my child has never received Birth to Three services?

You can still ask for help. Contact Clark School District about concerns with communication, learning, movement, behavior, play, or everyday skills. For children **age 3 and older**, contact the **building principal or district special education director.** You do not need to wait until kindergarten.

What might services look like?

Services are based on your child's needs. The IEP team discusses what support is needed, where it will happen, and how often. Special education does not automatically mean a separate classroom or a full-day preschool program.

How can I help my child prepare?

Keep learning through play, conversation, songs, and books. Share what helps your child feel comfortable. Ask who will work with your child, whether a visit is possible, what the schedule will be, and how you will receive updates.

Ready to connect?

Under age 3: Hub Area Birth to Three Program
605-622-5992 | KKumpf@nemhc.org
Kelly Bradberry: 605-753-5450
Age 3 and older: Clark building principal or district special education director

SD DOE: Early Childhood Parent Resources | Federal transition guidance