

February 2018

Dear Parents,

Your child will be entering kindergarten in the fall. This is an exciting time in your child's life. Sending a child to public school for the first time sometimes makes parents anxious – perhaps even more so when your child has special needs. You can be assured that your child's Early Childhood CARES service coordinator and the elementary school kindergarten transition team will be assisting with this transition.

First, it is important that you contact your child's elementary school soon – preferably by the end of March – to determine when they will be registering incoming kindergarten children. If you are unsure which school your child will be attending, you may call the school district office (see attached list). When you register your child, you will be asked to complete some general information about your child, and will need to bring:

- Proof of your child's date of birth (birth certificate, hospital records, medical card, etc.)
- Your child's immunization record
- Something that shows your address (drivers license or state identification card, mail addressed to your home, etc.)

The school has access to your child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This document shows the services your child is currently receiving. The IFSP will help the district address your child's needs for kindergarten.

The attached information briefly explains the school-age Individualized Education Plan (IEP). It also lists school district offices and books about going to school that your child may enjoy. If you do not plan to enroll your child in a public kindergarten, please call your local school to discuss service options for your child. If you move to a new school district, please call Early Childhood CARES, 541-346-2578, so we can ensure that the new district has access to your child's records.

Beginning the transition process now will help you, your child and the school prepare for fall. We hope that the move to kindergarten will be a fun and exciting time for your child!

Sincerely,

The Staff of Early Childhood CARES

## Differences Between Early Childhood Special Education and Special Education in Public School

The laws and rules governing early intervention / early childhood special education (EI/ECSE) programs differ from the laws and rules for school-age children receiving special education in a few significant ways.

### IFSP to IEP

Your child has been receiving special education services as specified by his/her *Individualized Family Service Plan* (IFSP). In kindergarten, services will be specified on an *Individualized Education Plan* (IEP). Both plans have measurable annual goals and short-term objectives. An IFSP also includes family goals if a family wishes. One form is used throughout the State of Oregon for the IFSP, while each school district has its own IEP form.

An IFSP is intended to be an integrated plan that identifies all relevant services for the child and family – educational, medical and/or social services – and designates which resources are to pay for each identified service. An IEP identifies only the child's educational goals, objectives and services to be addressed in the school setting. IEP meetings are typically held at the child's school.

### Family Focus to Child Focus

In early intervention/early childhood special education, families are involved as partners in all levels of the process. Family outcomes and other types of services are included in an IFSP. Parents are partners with the school district and are valuable members of the IEP team. However, as children enter public school, the focus shifts away from the family to the child's educational needs at school. This shift is reflected in the IEP

## The Typical Transition Sequence

As your child moves from a preschool special education setting to a kindergarten level class, your family will interact with people from both your current early childhood special education (ECSE) program and the school district where you live. Although each district varies somewhat in how it will prepare your child for kindergarten, most transitions from ECSE to school follow the general sequence described below.

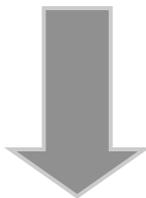
**Transition to kindergarten is planned at the IFSP meeting**

In the year before your child enters school, planning for transition to kindergarten will be added to your child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). A school district representative is invited to attend the IFSP meeting.



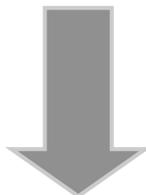
**The school district accesses Early Childhood CARES records**

The kindergarten transition team may print any needed documents from the Early Childhood CARES database.



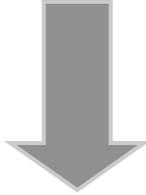
**The school district reviews records and plans the next steps**

A case manager from the school district is assigned and will consult with you and your child's ECSE provider. If any additional observation or testing is needed, you will be contacted for your permission.



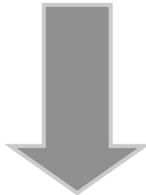
**The school district evaluates and/or holds a team meeting for eligibility**

The district special education representatives will meet with you to review any new eligibility testing and to establish your child's eligibility for school-age services.



**The IEP meeting with school district personnel takes place**

At the Individualized Education Plan meeting, your child's needs will be reviewed and any additional testing will be discussed. The IEP will be developed to replace the IFSP when your child actually enters school. Once the IEP is written, the district may discuss placement options with you.



**The IEP team meets to determine placement**

You may have visited some of the placement options prior to this meeting. Your child will be placed in an appropriate school program.

You will be notified and invited to the eligibility, IEP and placement meetings.

## Lane County School District Special Education Offices

District	Phone
Bethel	541-689-3283
Blachy	541-925-3262
Creswell	541-895-6005
Crow-Applegate-Lorane	541-935-2227
Eugene 4J	541-790-7828
Fern Ridge	541-935-7733
Junction City	541-998-6311
Lowell	541-937-2105
Mapleton	541-268-4471
Marcola	541-933-2411
McKenzie	541-822-3313
Oakridge	541-782-2813
Pleasant Hill	541-736-0417
Siuslaw	541-997-5456
South Lane	541-942-0147
Springfield	541-726-3385
Early Childhood CARES	541-346-2578

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# **Books and Text Resources to Help Prepare Children for Kindergarten**

**Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner**, by Amy Schwartz

**Countdown to Kindergarten**, by Alison McGhee

**David Goes to School**, by David Shannon

**First Day Jitters**, by Julie Danneberg

**(Que nervios! : el primer día de escuela)**, by Julie Danneberg

**First Day, Hooray!**, by Nancy Poydar

**Francine's Day**, by Anna Alter

**Franklin Goes to School**, by Paulette Bourgeois

**(Franklin va a la escuela)**, by Paulette Bourgeois

**Froggy Goes to School**, by Jonathan London

**If You Take a Mouse to School**, by Laura Numeroff

**Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come**, by Nancy L. Carlson

**Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten**, by Joseph Slate  
(Many other titles in the Miss Bindergarten series)

**Mouse's First Day of School**, by Lauren Thompson

**My Kindergarten**, by Rosemary Wells

**My Teacher Sleeps in School**, by Leatie Weiss

**The Kissing Hand**, by Audrey Penn

**The Night Before Kindergarten**, by Natasha Wing

**Those Mean Nasty Dirty Downright Disgusting But...Invisible Germs**, by Judith Anne Rice

**Tom Goes to Kindergarten**, by Margaret Wild

**Twelve Days of Kindergarten**, by Deborah Lee Rose

**Welcome to Kindergarten**, by Anne F. Rockwell

**When You Go to Kindergarten**, by James Howe

**Who Will Go to School Today?**, by Karl Ruhmann

## Resources

- Ready 4K

Text Ready4K to 313131

This program offers three free text messages a week to help parents or providers prepare their child for kindergarten. The first text is a Fact (research based fact). The second one is a Tip (applying the fact to an activity) and the third one is a Growth Idea (expanding the activity and skill). They are fun facts and easy tips that are scientifically proven to help children do better in school. The free program is sponsored by the Lane County Early Learning Alliance and was developed by the Center for Education Policy Analysis at Stanford University.

- The Arc of Lane County  
4181 E St.  
Springfield, OR 97478  
Voice: 541-343-5256  
Fax: 541-343-4387

A nonprofit organization that provides advocacy, support and information for children and adults with developmental disabilities

<http://www.arclane.org>

- Lane County Developmental Disabilities  
125 East 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Voice: 541-682-3695  
Fax: 541-682-3879

A county-wide program offering case management for children and adults with disabilities and their families

<https://www.lanecounty.org/cms/One>

- **Direction Service**  
1144 Gateway Loop, Suite 200  
Springfield, OR 97477  
Voice: 541-686-5060  
Fax: 541-686-5063  
  
<http://www.directionservice.org/index.cfm>  
  
A nonprofit organization that provides information, referrals and case coordination for children and adults who are disabled and their families.  
Ages birth to 21

- **Disability Rights Oregon**  
610 SW Broadway, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97205  
Voice: 1-503-243-2081  
Toll-free: 1-800-452-1694  
Fax: 1-503-243-1738  
  
<https://droregon.org/>  
  
Offers free legal assistance to children with disabilities and their families

- **FACT Oregon**  
13455 SE 97<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Clackamas, OR 97015  
Voice: 1-503-786-6082  
Toll-free: 1-888-988-3228  
Fax: 1-503-786-6084  
  
[factoregon.org/](http://factoregon.org/)  
  
FACT Oregon is a family leadership organization based in Oregon for individuals and their families experiencing disability, working collaboratively to facilitate positive change in policies, systems and attitudes, through family support, advocacy and partnerships.