

Does the concept of Transition apply in the Infants and Toddlers Context?

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The DCDD Board members prepare briefs about topics of interest for our members. As a DCDD member, you are receiving this brief on the topic of resources for professionals who work with students who have communication disorders and/or who are deaf or hard of hearing. We appreciate your continued membership with DCDD! Please feel free to discuss this article on DCDD LinkedIn or Twitter.

According to the law, Transition goals are required as part of the IEP for students as of their 16th birthday and earlier if the team determines appropriate. Transition has been defined as a “results oriented process” designed to assist the individuals in the move from one environment to another. This is typically regarded as from school to work. It seems, however, that for individuals to be successful as they leave the P-12 school environment, opportunities for independent decision making must occur at all levels in their learning experiences. A review of the concept of Transition reveals a host of related skills needed for successful transitions and independence. Consistently listed among the skills noted are self-advocacy, self-determination, communication and activities of daily living. These are all applicable in the infants and toddlers context. In fact, most of the children with whom we work have goals in their IFSP’s and IEPS that deal with some or all of these skills.

Such awareness requires the acknowledgment that Transition skills are applicable long before a child reaches the age of 16, and that all of us as Educators of young Children with Exceptionalities develop activities to encourage children to become independent and able to transition successfully from one activity to the next, from one environment to the next, to develop independent personal care and to clearly communicate their wants and needs. So, yes the concept of Transition does apply in the context of the education of Infants and Toddlers with Exceptionalities and it is something in which all of are regularly engaged.

A few resources are included below that may be of use as you and the children in your caseload prepare for the years ahead.

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/trans.index.html>

http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ah_UKEwjw78WAlqPNAhVJSVlKHe9xAzMqFggmMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.waisman.wisc.edu%2Fcedd%2Fpdfs%2Fproducts%2Fhealth%2FHTSC.pdf&usq=AFQjCNHw7sB86sKB0_606UusRCGO976NYw&bvm=bv.124272578,d.aXo

<http://www.etfo.ca/MULTIMEDIA/WEBCASTS/SPECIAL EDUCATION/Pages/Transition%20Skills.aspx>