

Transition Timeline

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This time line is a guide for parents of students with special needs who are moving through the current school system. It is suggested that, no matter what age your child is currently, you should go through the checklist from the elementary age. Many of the suggested activities overlap and are processes that are ongoing throughout the transition stages. As an example, positive human relationships and good social skills at home and school. These traits need to develop along with the changing ages of the child, but are not listed at each level of transition. Please be aware that learning what options are available for your child are important at every level. You are your Child's best advocate.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE

- Introduce the Concept of work into everyday activities.
- Students should become familiar with all types of careers.
- Develop self-care and daily living skills and routines.
- Focused human relationship and good social skills at home and school
- Explore vocational opportunities at the upper grade levels and beyond that are available.
- Make your child a productive part of the household introduce chores and an allowance.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AGE

- Begin Career Exploration, watch movies, read books, go to work with adults, etc.
- Support the teacher's efforts to provide job training as part of the school program.
- Find out the type of education program options such as inclusion, vocational, combination, etc.
- At home parents can also help p their children explore careers by chores around the house, volunteering in the community and participating in community service projects.

14 YEARS OLD

- Parents should participate in a NEXT STEPS program or ask about a Transition program for parents.
- Attend a Transition Planning Committee (TPC) meeting for your area.
- See that vocational training is built into your child's IEP (Individual Educational Plan).
- Explore recreation and leisure interests.
- Attend every IEP meeting or have your input known.
- Find out how funding sources (e.g. Department of Human Services), Case Coordination Agencies (e.g. PACT, Inc.) and financial assistance programs (e.g. social security) can benefit you.
- Write transition goals in the IEP.
- Develop independent living skills.