

Transition from Early Head Start to Head Start

Policy: Bridges Early Head Start staff and Family Services staff will assist children and families with a smooth transition from the child's current placement in the Early Head Start program to Head Start. The transition should occur soon after the child's third birthday or when appropriate for the transition to occur.

Performance Standard 1302.70 Transitions from Early Head Start

Procedures

Timing for Transitions

- Once a child turns 2 years 6 months, the Family Advocate will begin working with the family to complete the Early Head Start Checklist. The family advocate will collect the most recent income documentation from the family to determine if the family will be income eligible for the Bridges Head Start Program.
- When a participant is determined income eligible, the Family Advocate will then schedule a time to complete the Head Start application process on or after the participant's third birthday.

Family Collaborations

- EHS staff will assist families to implement strategies and activities to support a successful transition if the family remains eligible for Head Start.
- If the family is no longer income eligible for Head Start, EHS staff will assist the family to find a public or private funded preschool.

Early Head Start and Head Start Collaboration

- EHS staff will encourage family participation in center programs such as themed Family Fun activities and/or End of Year celebrations.
- EHS staff will assist families in setting up a time to go and visit preschool classroom and staff that the child will be transitioning to.
- If a family chooses a Head Start Preschool (center or home based) the child's name will be placed on a waiting list if the program is fully enrolled.