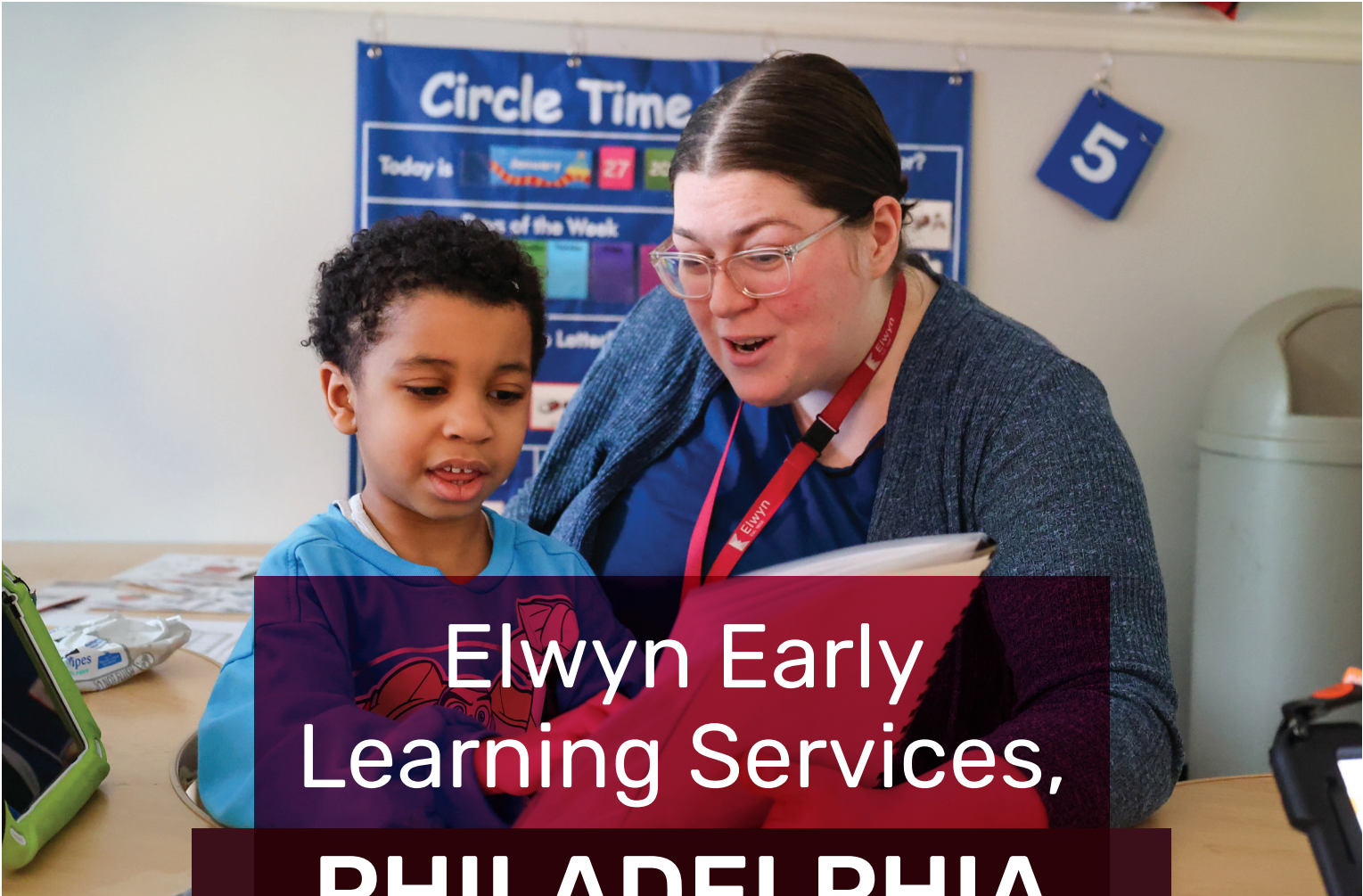




Elwyn Early Learning Services, **PHILADELPHIA**

A Planning Guide for Parents

Beginning Kindergarten is an exciting time in your child's life and we want to help make the process as smooth as possible.

Prepared by
Elwyn Early Learning Services

A PLANNING GUIDE FOR PARENTS

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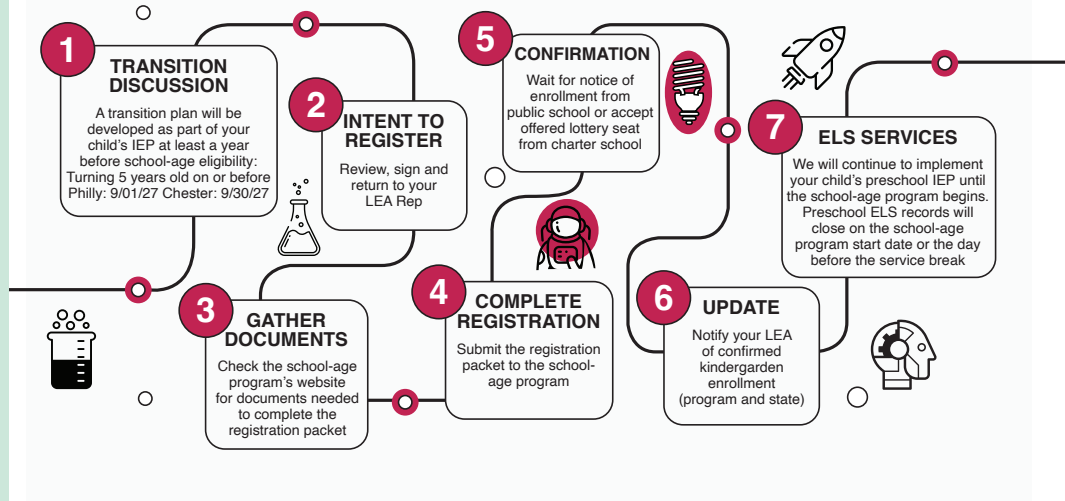
Guide Overview and Transition Steps

This guide will help you:

1. Understand the steps to transition your child to kindergarten within the city of Philadelphia
2. Plan for your child's school age program
3. Know the timelines and deadlines for a successful transition
4. Gather information, answer questions, and offer support

If your child was born on or before 9/1/2022 they are eligible for Kindergarten!

TRANSITION STEPS



Monthly virtual sessions are planned throughout the spring for children who were referred after this time. It is important that you plan to attend at least one to understand the options the school district might propose for continuing support to your child. The transition process allows time to evaluate your child, plan the support needed, and determine the most appropriate classroom environment for your child to receive that support.

Registering early and working with the PSEI program to complete the steps in the transition process ensures that you, the parent, have time to make informed decisions, are prepared for working with the school-age program, and can ensure what's best for your child and family. During this process, you may determine that opting for an additional year of PSEI is best for your family. Beginning and working through the transition process allows you to better decide if this is the choice that is right for you.

Once your child attend's kindergarten or any school-age programming they cannot return to preschool early intervention. The point of contact for any IEP comments, questions, or concerns would be the school age team.

Why It's Important to Register for Kindergarten and Start the Transition Process Early

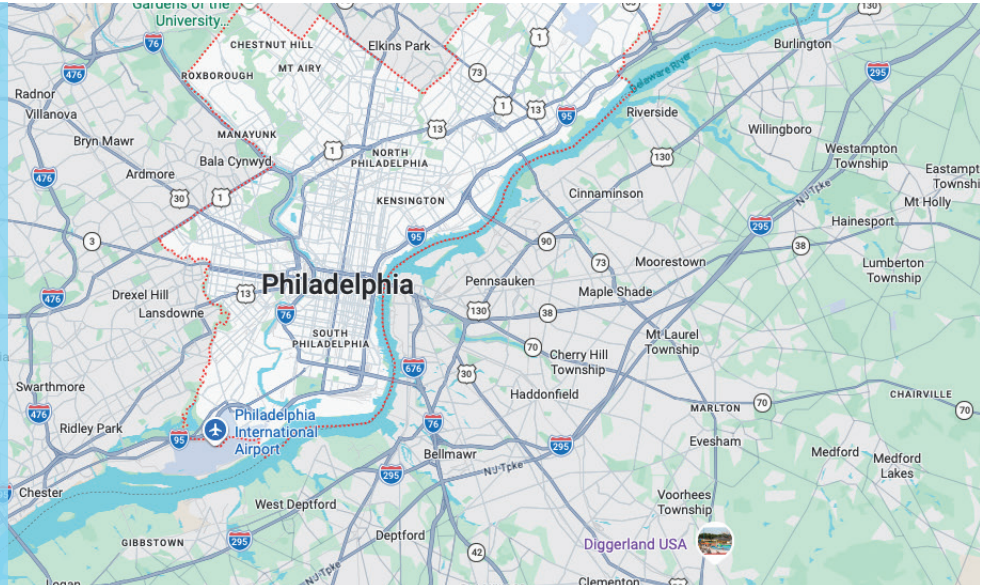
Currently, your child is receiving Preschool Early Intervention (PSEI) services as outlined in their IEP. When your child goes to kindergarten, the public school district becomes responsible for ensuring your child's needs are addressed. To prepare for that, there are several steps that need to be taken by the school district, by the PSEI program, and by you. Registering your child is part of these steps and registering early ensures the receiving school is informed of the support and services your child receives and can plan for your child as they begin the school year. This ensures a smoother transition for your child.

Transition Fairs provide an opportunity to hear more about the transition process and the options available to you. The Transition Fairs usually begin in October and are scheduled through the end of February.

Where to Register Your Child

In the City of Philadelphia, you have options for where to send your child to school. Some of the options available are:

- The School District of Philadelphia
- Apply Philly Charter
- The Archdiocese of Philadelphia



The School District of Philadelphia

Registration opens mid-January 2027.

Find your Fit School Selection happens in the fall the year prior. The application window is only a few weeks, 10/5/2026 – 11/24/2026. Families can explore applying to the lottery to consider an alternative public-school to their identified catchment school. Details about this option can be found here <https://www.philasd.org/studentplacement/school-selection/#about>

Facts, resources and the registration link are available here <https://www.philasd.org/studentplacement/kindergarten-registration/>.

Registration with the School District of Philadelphia MUST be completed at your neighborhood school. Find your school location and their website by clicking here <https://explore.avela.org/fpp>.

Click this link to see Frequently Asked Questions <https://www.philasd.org/studentplacement/kindergarten-registration/#faqskinder>.



Apply Philly Charter

(APC) information can be found here applyphillycharter.org.

More information regarding Charter Schools is available here <https://www.philasd.org/charterschools/#aboutcharter>.



Archdiocese of Philadelphia

More information on the catholic schools run by the Archdiocese can be found here <https://www.aopcatholicschools.org/>.

What Is Needed to Complete Your Child's Registration

You **MUST** have the following documents to register your child. The registration cannot be completed without these.

1. Proof of your child's age: Acceptable documentation includes but is not limited to the following examples. Please ensure you check the resources provided to find more information on acceptable documents.
 - a. Child's original birth certificate
 - b. Notarized copy of the child's birth certificate
 - c. Child's valid passport
 - d. Original baptismal certificate indicating the child's date of birth
 - e. Copy of the record of baptism – notarized or duly certified and showing the date of birth
 - f. Notarized statement from the parents or another relative indicating the date of birth
 - g. Prior school records indicating the date of birth
2. Two (2) documents showing your address. Examples include:
 - a. A lease
 - b. A deed
 - c. Utility bills with your name and address
3. Immunization records
 - a. Immunization/shot records are required for registration. You can contact the School District of Philadelphia or the Charter school you choose for the specific immunization information needed, including exemptions, if applicable to your situation.



****Photo identification for the child's parent/guardian will also be requested, but it is not required for registration. A driver's license, passport, or state issued photo identification card can be used for this purpose.***

Important Dates / Countdown to Kindergarten

September - November 2026

- Make sure that your child's preschool teacher and Elwyn Early Learning Services (ELS) LEA Representative have **your correct contact information**, including:
 - o Your phone numbers
 - o Your mailing address
- Expect to receive the following documents:
 - o Your child's Intent to Register
 - o Notice of Transition Options
 - o Notice of Your Child's Transition to School Age Meeting
- By completing the Intent to Register, this will serve as notification of your family's decision to register your child with the school district or a charter school for 2027. This then allows Elwyn Early Learning Services (ELS) to share your child's educational documents with the elected school age program. The educational documents we share will include, but are not limited to, your child's current Individualized Education Program and most recent Evaluation Report.
- Find Your Fit School Selection: lottery application is open 10/5/2026 – 11/24/2026
- Apply Philly Charter: lottery application is open 9/18/2026 – 1/15/2027



January - February 2027

- Attend at least one (1) scheduled Transition to Kindergarten Fair session
 - o Representatives from Elwyn ELS and The School District of Philadelphia (SDP) will be available to answer your questions and assist with your transition needs.
 - o If you have not yet signed the **Intent to Register**, you will be provided with the opportunity to sign it at the Transition Fair ensuring ELS and SDP know your intentions for your child for the next school year.

January - May 31, 2027

- Register your child for Kindergarten!

Timelines Grid and Responsibilities

Month	Early Learning Services (ELS)	School District of Philadelphia (SDP)	Family
September	Joint planning begins with The School District of Philadelphia (SDP)	Joint planning begins with Elwyn Early Learning Services (ELS)	Make sure your child's LEA Representative has your correct contact information, including phone numbers and mailing address
October	ELS will send the Intent to Register, the Notice of Transition Options, and the Notice of Your Child's School-age Transition Meeting to all families who have children age-eligible for Kindergarten as of September 1, 2027	Monthly meetings with ELS to continue collaboration efforts in support of Early Intervention families preparing to transition	Return the signed Intent to Register identifying which option you are choosing to your LEA Representative Make sure to let your LEA Representative know of any changes to your contact information; provide your current phone number and mailing address
Mid- October	ELS will begin forwarding demographic information for children age-eligible to transition to SDP For children with a <i>signed Intent to Register</i> , ELS will forward copies of the child's current IEP and Evaluation Report	SDP will review this preliminary information in preparation for transition planning.	Return the signed Intent to Register identifying which option you are choosing to your LEA Representative
Before December 1st	ELS will send Transition Fair invitations to all families who have children age-eligible for Kindergarten as of September 1, 2027	N/A	Review your child's transition plan and all other transition information provided by ELS Plan to attend a Transition to Kindergarten Fair between October 2026 and the end of February 2027 Additional sessions are planned for March 2027 through June 2027 for families whose children have been referred late to ELS
Starting in January	ELS will provide notice to families of Kindergarten registration for SDP and Charter Schools	SDP will provide notice of Kindergarten registration to families	REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN
Jan-Feb	ELS will host Transition to Kindergarten Fairs for families with SDP and Charter schools attending	SDP will participate in Transition to Kindergarten Fairs with ELS families	Attend at least ONE of the scheduled Transition to Kindergarten Fairs with ELS, SDP, and Charter schools attending
By May 30th	N/A	N/A	REGISTRATION DEADLINE Make sure your child is registered for Kindergarten before this date

What is a TRANSITION PLAN?

An IEP transition plan is a formal component of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) that outlines the services, goals, and activities needed to prepare a student with a disability for the transition into their next educational setting. This plan is created at an IEP meeting in collaboration with yourself and the members of your child's IEP team.

The TRANSITION PLAN will look like this:

X. Transition Plan

1. Transition Outcome/Goal:			
What is happening now? What information and child and family considerations should be shared with the team in order to better prepare for transition?			
Activities/Services Designed to Ensure a Smooth Transition from Early Intervention to Kindergarten The plan should include at least the following: 1. Discussions with the parent regarding future support and other matters related to transition 2. Steps to prepare the young child for changes based on developmental needs, including activities to help the adjustment to and participation in new settings 3. Steps to ensure a smooth transition, including sharing of information, and convening a meeting with the family, community provider, or school district by February 28, of the current program year for preschool EI	Person Responsible	Date To be Completed	Actual Completion Date

TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN (FALL 2027) FAIR DATES

Date	Time	Location	Program
Wednesday, October 14, 2026	5 PM - 7 PM	Virtual	All ELS Families
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	5 PM - 7 PM	Virtual	All ELS Families
Wednesday, November 18, 2026	5 PM - 7 PM	Virtual	Abundant Life & Barring St EI ONLY
Tuesday, December 8, 2026	5 PM - 7 PM	Virtual	EasterSeals APS/EI ONLY
Tuesday, December 15, 2026	5 PM - 7 PM	Virtual	All ELS Families
Wednesday, January 6, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	6333 Malvern Ave 19151	Overbrook School For The Blind ONLY
Friday, January 8, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	Virtual	Kidology, EIEI, & TLC ONLY
Monday, January 11, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	Virtual	All ELS Families
Tuesday, January 12, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	143 W Coulter St 19144	PA School for the Deaf ONLY
Wednesday, January 13, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	10475 Drummond Rd 19154	SPIN Drummond & Orthodox EI ONLY
Tuesday, January 19, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	Virtual	All ELS Families
Wednesday, January 20, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	5548 Chestnut St 19139	ELS West ONLY
Tuesday, January 26, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	5414 Overbrook Ave 19131	Clarke ONLY
Tuesday, February 2, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	APM Rising Stars 4221 2nd St 19140	All ELS Families
Wednesday, February 3, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	3300 Henry Ave 19129, Suite 555	Falls Center ONLY
Tuesday, February 9, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	Aspira (Pequenos Passos) 6301 N 2nd St 19120	All ELS Families
Wednesday, February 10, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	Kinder Academy 6901 Rising Sun Ave 19111	All ELS Families
Tuesday, February 16, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	Virtual	All ELS Families
Friday, February 19, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	KenCrest 5900 Elmwood Ave 19143	All ELS Families
Wednesday, February 24, 2027	10 AM - 12 PM	School District of Philadelphia 440 N Broad St 19130 2nd floor auditorium, portal D	All ELS Families

EI 2027 TRANSITION MEETING
Join [Zoom Meeting](#):
Meeting ID: 826 0922 1160
Passcode: EI2027

One tap mobile: +12678310333,,82609221160# US (Philadelphia)
Dial by your location: +1 267 831 0333 US (Philadelphia)
Meeting ID: 826 0922 1160
Find your local number: <https://philasd-org.zoom.us/j/kuOJiMrTj>

Family Resources and Who to Contact

Kindergarten, Here I Come! – PA Promise for Children

<https://papromiseforchildren.com/kindergarten-here-i-come/>

This activity guide helps families prepare their child for Kindergarten. It provides monthly learning activities, resources and information to help their preschool-age child.

Kindergarten, Here I Am! – PA Promise for Children

<https://papromiseforchildren.com/kindergarten-here-i-am/>

This activity guide can inspire skill building and engagement at home, building on what your child is learning in kindergarten. It's filled with fun learning activities, information and resources to help families support their kindergartner.

Recipes for Readiness: Developing the right skills – PA Promise for Children

<https://papromiseforchildren.com/recipes-for-readiness-developing-the-right-skills/>

Recipes for Readiness provides family-friendly activities to help develop skills that kindergarten teachers look for as children enter their classrooms. Activities are designed for children age three to five and are aligned to Pennsylvania's learning standards for early childhood.

Transitioning to Kindergarten | NAEYC

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/transitioning-to-kindergarten>

Explore a concise list of practical tips families can use to prepare their child and themselves before, during, and after their child begins attending kindergarten.

Who can I contact if I have questions or need help?

The School District of Philadelphia (SDP)

Early Intervention – Specialized Services (philasd.org)

Via Phone: 215-400-4000

Via Email: earlyintervention@philasd.org

(ELS) Elwyn Early Learning Services

[Early Learning Services](#) - Family Information - Elwyn

Via phone: 215-222-8054 (Intake Department)

Via email: ELS2SchoolAge@elwyn.org

Family should reach out to the Office of Student Enrollment and Placement (OSEP) if they have questions about their online registration. They can be reached at 215-400-4290, osep@philasd.org. If they do not receive an answer - they should submit a "Let's Talk" request <https://www.philasd.org/contactus/>

Transition Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Who registers my child for kindergarten?

- a. The parent or guardian is responsible for registering a child for kindergarten.

2. When is my child eligible for kindergarten?

- a. Philadelphia: Child is 5 years old on or before September 1

3. When does registration open?

- a. School selection: October – November (lottery application open for a few weeks) to apply for a lottery to select an alternative public school from your neighborhood (catchment) school.
- b. School district of Philadelphia (SDP): Mid-January, registration by May 31st is strongly encouraged
- c. Charter schools: Lottery applications are typically open from October - Early January. Check the school specific website for details.
- d. Private Schools: Some applications open as early as September the year before, check the school specific website for details.

4. When should I register my child?

- a. Register as early as possible to confirm your child has a seat for the upcoming school year.

5. What documents do I need for registration?

- a. Typically: Birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency, and parent identification. Each school's registration packet will identify the required documents.

6. What options do I have if I do not want my child to go to my neighborhood (catchment) school?

- a. The 5 types of school options are; public school, charter school, private school, cyber school and homeschool.

7. Why do I need to register at my neighborhood (catchment) school? I don't want my child to go there.

- a. The process for registration begins at the neighborhood school for all incoming students. Discussion about the least restrictive environment is held with the school-based IEP team.

8. Who can I contact at the elementary school regarding my child's IEP?

- a. You can contact the school building and ask to be connected with the special education teacher or principal to identify your point of contact.

9. What if I change my mind about transitioning from preschool to school-age after I register my child for kindergarten?

- a. Please notify your early intervention LEA representative and the school at which you registered so the documents on file can be updated to support your decision to change this.

10. How do I navigate the school selection application?

- a. Although incoming kindergarteners will not receive a student identification number until they are fully registered for the upcoming school year. The school selection application can still be completed.

11. Who will share my child's early intervention history with the school where they are enrolled to attend?

- a. The early intervention team will share the record with the receiving school. Please be sure your early intervention LEA is aware of your registration, so they have the correct contact.

12. What do I do if the school-based IEP is not supporting my child's needs? What do I do next?

- a. Connect with the school-based team. You can request a meeting if you have questions or concerns about the IEP that is in place.

Transition Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

13. What will the evaluation by the school-age LEA include?

- a. The school-age team will identify if they need to complete an evaluation. This communication will also outline what is being recommended if they are proposing more information is needed to develop a school-based IEP.

14. What support/services will they have?

- a. The school-based IEP team will review this with you during the IEP meeting.

15. What public school will my child go to?

- a. You will begin the registration process with the public school district. Your child will attend the local neighborhood school unless the school-based IEP team makes a different recommendation, this may lead to a recommendation for your child to attend a different location. The details will be discussed at your child's school-based IEP meeting.

16. Will an evaluation be completed for my child to receive services? When does this occur?

- a. The school-age IEP team will determine if they need to complete an evaluation. The evaluation may occur prior to the start of the school year or shortly after the school year begins to determine your child's disability and eligibility. The evaluation will support the development of a school-age IEP.
- b. If you register in a timely manner, you should receive a notice of school options from the school-age IEP team to identify the next step in preparing with them for the upcoming school year.

17. What support/services will my child have?

- a. The school-age IEP team will discuss with you what services and support are recommended in the new environment. They will have the early intervention record history for reference.

18. Can transportation be provided?

- a. The school-age IEP team will determine if transportation should be included in the IEP based on the recommendation they make. It can be considered a related service and outlined in the IEP.

19. What are my rights as a parent?

- a. You have the same rights outlined in the Procedural Safeguards that was provided as part of your Preschool Early Intervention paperwork. You can request another copy if needed to review these rights.

20. What classroom will my child be in?

- a. You have to register your child to confirm they have a seat for the upcoming school year before classroom assignments are made. The school-age IEP team will identify what service, support and environment is appropriate to help your child succeed in their program.

21. Who can I contact?

- a. Questions about your child's early intervention IEP or general support with transition, please contact the LEA.
- b. Questions about your kindergarten registration, please contact the Office of Student Enrollment and Placement (OSEP) at the School District of Philadelphia.