

**College of Southern Idaho
Head Start/Early Head Start**

Guiding Principles

Transition means moving from one place, stage or relationship to another. Transitions happen often during every person's lifetime. For example, having a baby or sending your child to Head Start are transitions.

At EHS and HS, Transition Planning is how the family and the individuals who work with them prepare for a change that will happen soon. Together they write and carry out a written plan to make sure that the child's move from one program or service to another is successful. The plan is based on what is important to the family and on the goals for the child. It lists the resources and steps necessary to achieve those goals.

What We Know About Transitions

- Transitions are certain to happen
- Transitions take place over time
- Transitions occur throughout life
- Transitions are likely to be stressful
- Transitions may be made easier with planning
- Transitions can be a time of growth

Getting Ready

- Identify the changes that will occur
- Organize your thoughts and information about: Goals, Resources, Responsibilities, Family Needs, Feelings and Concerns
- Prepare for the change: MAKE A PLAN
 - What needs to be done?
 - Who is responsible to do what?
 - When will it be done?
- Keep communications open

What we believe about Transition Planning

- Concerns and priorities of parents drive transition planning and implementation
- Families receive continuous and uninterrupted service throughout the transition process
- Confidentiality of families is assured throughout the transition process. Family gives written permission for any sharing of information about the family.
- Families, staff and service providers share information about community resources, options, and the transition process. They work together to develop the family's transition plan.
- CSI Head Start/Early Head Start staff and other service providers listen to the concerns and needs expressed by families.
- Families, if they choose, are connected with other families who have been through the transition process.
- Staff who are involved in transition planning often feel a variety of emotions. Staff-to-staff support or MHP is available to ease stress during the transition process.