

Subject: Transition from First Steps to ECSE – Updated Materials Available Online

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Intended Audience: Directors of Special Education, Early Childhood Special Education Teachers, Process Coordinators, System Point of Entry Directors, First Steps Service Coordinators

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The Office of Special Education, Early Intervention Section of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is pleased to share an updated First Steps Transition Handbook. ECSE teachers and administrators will receive a copy of the new handbook in the mail this week. Key revisions to the handbook include:

- Added strategies to help prepare families for transition at age three;
- Added remarks from families who participated in First Steps;
- Clarified First Steps and ECSE timelines and required activities; and,
- Improved the design and format to be more family-friendly.

The Transition from First Steps to ECSE website has been updated to reflect the new handbook, as well as training materials (i.e., PowerPoint recording and handouts) for transition from First Steps and summer third birthday services.

For more information about transition timelines and activities, please visit the Transition from First Steps to ECSE website at: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps/transition-first-steps-early-childhood-special>.

We encourage all ECSE staff to review these materials to better understand requirements and to ensure your practices are in accordance with current guidelines.