

# SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

## TEIS EXTENDED OPTION DECISION-MAKING GUIDE



### MARK MY CALENDAR FOR IMPORTANT DATES

- Schedule a transition planning conference 9 months to 90 days prior to my child's 3rd birthday
- Participate in an eligibility meeting with LEA
- If eligible, attend a TEIS decision meeting with LEA by my child's 3rd birthday and notify my service coordinator of my decision within 10 days of meeting



### IDENTIFY PRIORITIES FOR MY CHILD & FAMILY

- Would my child benefit more from being at home or learning with/from peers?
- What support does my family need?
- Are there health, academic, social or other considerations?



### GATHER INFORMATION AND INPUT

#### What school options and community options are available?

- Typical pre-school with supports, special education classroom, other?
- Opportunities for learning/socialization; splash pads, library story times, family support groups, parent's day out programs, other?

#### Who has information/input that can help with this decision?

- Therapist, Service Provider, Family, Friend?



### CONSIDER MY CHILD'S NEEDS

- Is my child making measurable progress and will they be ready for pre-school?
- Can the academics they need be addressed through their IFSP?
- How might changing to a new service provider (therapist) affect my child?

### PLAN MY NEXT STEPS →

**Making action items helps to ensure that everything is in place for my child's success. I'll start with the downloadable worksheet!**

### GREAT TO KNOW

- If you choose to continue TEIS now, you can change your mind and transition to school based services later. BUT, you can't choose to go back to TEIS services.
- You are not alone - Your TEIS service coordinator is only a call away!



# Should I Stay or Should I Go? Decision-Making Worksheet

## ● **Mark Your Calendar**

When is your transition planning conference scheduled?	Was your child deemed eligible for TEIS extended option, and if so, when is your decision meeting?
When is your eligibility meeting scheduled?	Date you must inform Service Coordinator of your decision: (within 10 days of your TEIS Decision meeting)

## ● **PRIORITIES**

**What are your top 3?** (Example: Skills your child needs, your child's health, family considerations)

1.	3.
2.	4.

## ● **GATHERING INPUT AND INFORMATION**

### **Options**

**What are the school options in your area?** (pre-school with supports, special education classroom, other)

**What are the community options?** (opportunities for learning/socialization; splash pads, library story times, family support groups, parent's day out programs) in my area?

### **Data**

**Who has information/input that can help you with this decision?**

Therapist:

Family/Friends:

Service Provider:

Other Support Members:

## ● **CONSIDER YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS**

**TIP: You don't have to know all the answers. Turn to your support team to help you look at expected milestones for each age group to guide your decision-making. Questions to Ponder:**

From your perspective, is your child making measurable progress with the current services provided?

Will this rate of progress prepare them for the transition to pre-school?

● **CONSIDER YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS Continued**

How might changing to a new service provider (therapist) affect your child?

Is socialization a concern?

Do you feel they need more structured learning?

Can the academics they need be addressed through their IFSP?

Are there school-readiness skills that need to be addressed? (communication, sharing, paying attention)

**What are the pros and cons for each option for your family/child?**

Continue TEIS Services

Move to School Based Services

PROS	CONS	PROS	CONS

**COMMON REASONS PARENTS STAY WITH TEIS THROUGH AGE 4/5**

- I get to have my child with me longer
- My child is making good progress and is happy
- I don't want to switch therapists

**COMMON REASONS PARENTS CHOOSE TO MOVE TO SCHOOL BASED PROGRAM/SERVICES**

- My child needs more social interaction
- My child seems to be ready for more academics
- My child needs more structure

**GREAT TO KNOW**

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**NEXT STEPS:**

- Schedule visits to possible settings
  - Set up meetings to gather/review information
  - Contact Support Organizations like:
- The Arc Tennessee** / [www.hearctn.org](http://www.hearctn.org)
- TNSTEP** / [www.tnstep.info](http://www.tnstep.info)



