

# COMPASS Family Center Legal Consultations and IEP Advocacy



*The COMPASS Family Center at USD assists families of children with special needs in navigating the various systems of care, including education.*

For parents of children ages 2-5, accessing services can be complex and frustrating, especially at age 3, a critical transition period. From birth to 3 years old many children receive early intervention services, but after they turn three, special education services are provided by their local school district.

Funded by a First Five Innovation Grant, COMPASS' Transition Support Program provides special education support at no cost to parents with children from birth to 5 years old with a wide range of special needs.

## TRANSITION SUPPORT PROGRAM

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSITION SEMINARS:** These seminars educate parents with children from birth to 5 years old regarding special education and the law. An experienced attorney explains to participants the legal distinctions between early intervention services and special education services. Parents also learn what to expect during the transition process and how to effectively access appropriate services for their child. These seminars are also helpful for parents whose children may not have received early intervention services, but may be eligible for an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

**SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIONS:** These consultations provide an opportunity for parents to discuss their issues and concerns with an attorney experienced in special education. Parents receive information regarding special education law and strategies to more effectively advocate for their child's interests. Parents receive specific information regarding their child's transition process, answers to their questions, and a road map for navigating the complexities of the special education system.

**IEP ADVOCACY:** Transition meetings and initial IEP team meetings can sometimes feel overwhelming and confusing for parents. COMPASS IEP advocacy provides parents with an experienced attorney to help them work with the school district during transition meetings or initial IEP team meetings. This advocacy helps ensure that children receive the services they need and that parents' concerns are shared during the team process.

---

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,** please contact our services coordinator at (619) 260-7658. For Special Education Transition Seminar dates, times and locations, please visit our Web site at [www.sandiego.edu/compass](http://www.sandiego.edu/compass).