



**early steps**  
**Children's Medical Services**

## **Early Steps Assistive Technology**

An assistive technology device is an item or piece of equipment that is identified by the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) Team and used to help a child in Early Steps meet their individual developmental outcomes. Some examples include:

- Assistive listening devices such as hearing aids
- Specially adapted learning games and toys
- Orthotics, such as a hand brace

### **What Happens to the Assistive Technology when my Child Turns Three?**

At the age of 36 months, children transition out of Early Steps. There are many options for transition, such as a Head Start program, public or private child care, a school district prekindergarten program, or the home. If an assistive technology device was purchased specifically for your child by Early Steps through the IFSP process, you can keep this assistive technology device no matter where your child transitions.

Young children change in size and capability very quickly and may outgrow a piece of assistive technology in a matter of months. A lending library is a cost efficient way to make such devices available to a large number of children who may only need them

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for a short period of time. If your child was provided assistive technology through a lending library, you will work with your service coordinator to determine when the assistive technology should be returned. It does not necessarily need to be returned the day your child turns three. However, you will be asked to return it when your child no longer needs it or outgrows it so that another child may benefit from the assistive technology.

### **What are my Child's Rights to Assistive Technology?**

Even if your child receives assistive technology from an Early Steps lending library, you have the right to request to retain the device after your child turns three. You can transfer the ownership of the assistive technology to your child or to the local education agency that your child is transferred to if you believe there will be a benefit from continued use of the device. Please contact your service coordinator and ask them for the Consumer Request for Transfer of Assistive Technology form to initiate such a request.



**For further information, contact your  
Early Steps Service Coordinator.**