

### **Section 3: Child to School**

Pianta & Kraft-Sayre (2003) have noted that a successful transition to Kindergarten is a key component of school readiness. This transition to formal schooling sets the tone and directions of a child's school career. Bailey, in Pianta (1999) notes that, "Kindergarten is the place in which children make important conclusions about school as a place where they want to be and about themselves as learners. If no other objectives are accomplished it is essential that the transition to school occur in such a way that children and families have a positive view of the school and that children have a feeling of perceived competence as learners" (p.xv).

The transition can be exciting because the child is moving to something new that the adults in his or her life regard as important. He or she may be apprehensive about leaving familiar people and routines and facing the unknown. A child entering a new program must learn to cope with an unfamiliar place, changes in expectations, a new role, peer group, and authority figure, and many new experiences. If not handled well, these new experiences and relationships may be stressful for the child. This section provides samples and suggestions to help make transition an exciting event with a high level of comfort.

The following documents are included in this section:

- A. Tips and Suggestions
  - Ideas for sending and receiving programs, parents and administrators to use throughout the transition process
- B. Child Information page sample
  - A sample page for the receiving program to send home when school begins for parents to share information about their child
- C. Letters
  - Guidelines for teachers to consider when writing a letter to incoming children. Receiving teachers can send several notes throughout the summer months to enhance curiosity and excitement
  - A sample letter "written" to the receiving teacher by the sending school to provide background information
  - A sample letter written by the sending teacher to the child to support an effective transition
  - A sample welcome letter for the receiving teacher to send to incoming children
  - A sample letter requesting parent permission to share records
- D. While I am at Kindergarten
  - A sample social story model that can be created to help children understand what will be happening while they are in school. Encourage children to think of their own sentences and choose their own pictures. This is a sample only.
- E. Making New Kindergartners Feel Welcome
  - Strategies for the Kindergarten teacher from the SERVE website. Additional ideas can be found at [www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)

- F. "What's What at your School"
  - A sample form from the Hawaii Transition Initiative for the receiving program to send home to help the child and family become familiar with the names of the people in school
- G. Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten
  - A tip sheet the sending program can provide for families to assist in preparing the child for Kindergarten. Sending programs might want to add examples of what these things might look like for better understanding [www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)
- H. First Steps
  - A list of tips and suggestions for parents for the year before Kindergarten that can be provided by the sending program [www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)
- I. Kindergarten, Here I Come calendar
  - A 15- month parent/child resource book for preschool children aligned to the Early Learning Standards. This resource can be downloaded at [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) or ordered for free at [fulfill@wavelinedirect.com](mailto:fulfill@wavelinedirect.com)
- J. Kindergarten, Here I Am calendar
  - A 15-month parent/child resource book for Kindergarten children aligned to the Early Learning Standards. This resource can be downloaded at [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) or ordered for free at [fulfill@wavelinedirect.com](mailto:fulfill@wavelinedirect.com)