

## **Section 4: Family to School**

As families begin to prepare for the transition to Kindergarten, they feel a range of emotions. There is pride that their child is entering school and will be facing new challenges. There is also concern about how their child will cope with the change. They are apprehensive about their child growing up and having less control over the experiences of the day. They hope that the transition to Kindergarten will be a smooth and happy one.

Studies show that successful programs actively involve parents in their programs. The family's influence is fundamental in the early years and successful schools welcome family members in ways that go beyond the traditional parent activities such as fundraising, parent-teacher conferences, May Day, and Back-to-School Night. Ongoing and meaningful two-way communication between parents and teachers is important. Parents can be involved as decision makers and volunteers. The documents in this section provide information for teachers to include and involve families.

- A. Suggestions to support family to school transitions
  - A list of suggested activities to include and involve families in the transition process
- B. Parent and Teachers as Partners
  - Suggestions and strategies for parents to enhance two-way communication
- C. Family Information Template
  - A sample form to be sent home from the receiving program for gathering family information
- D. The Top 5
  - Information parents and teachers wish were known by the other party  
[www.goodbeginnings.org](http://www.goodbeginnings.org)
- E. Barriers to Family Involvement
  - SERVE resource to anticipate and overcome barriers to involving families –  
[www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)
- F. Working with Culturally Diverse Families
  - SERVE resource for sending and receiving programs providing information about cultural diversity – [www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)
- G. Importance of Reading to Your Child (English and Spanish)
  - SERVE handout for sending and receiving programs to share with parents –  
[www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)
- H. What to Expect of a Kindergartener
  - Clear expectations of appropriate Kindergartener's development intended to help parents understand what they observe – [www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)
- I. Helpful Hints from Kindergarten Teachers
  - Information for sending programs to give to parents of four year olds prior to beginning Kindergarten – [www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)
- J. Communication
  - Tools to assist parents when communicating with the child and teacher –  
[www.serve.org](http://www.serve.org)
- K. My Day at Kindergarten
  - A sample send home communication tool to inform parents about the child's day
- L. 10 Ways to Participate
  - Suggestions from the National PTA about parent involvement