

## **Section 6: Community and School**

Members of the community want to know that children are successful and thriving in school. They want productive citizens and schools that are models of excellence. When children enter school ready to be successful learners these goals are promoted. Adults can support young children's successful transition to Kindergarten by viewing the transition as a collaborative process that happens over time. "Transition has to be understood in terms of the settings that contribute to child development (e.g., family, classroom, community) and the connections and relationships among these settings at any given time and across time." (Pianta & Kraft-Sayre, 2003). What works in one community may not be effective or even needed in another community.

Some communities have formed stand alone transition teams and in others the transition team is convened as part of the Community Engagement Group (CEG). CEGs are made up of members of the early childhood education world as well as other community members with vested interest in Early Childhood Education. The goals of Community Engagement groups are to develop and implement outreach plans to educate the community about the benefits of early education, to ensure that legislators are well informed regarding the benefits of quality early learning programs, to facilitate linkages between school districts, early learning teachers and other community stakeholders to develop successful transition planning and to create and distribute a report card to the community that outlines activities and outcomes of the group. The resources in this section provide information for working with community members in assisting with transition.

- A. Suggestions to enhance community and school connections
  - Suggestions for everyone involved in transition activities
- B. Creating a Transition Team and Plan
  - Framework for putting a transition team and plan together
- C. Community Engagement Group Resource list
  - Contact information for groups in Pennsylvania – [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org)
- D. Year Long Calendar of Transition Activities
  - Month-by-month activity suggestions for addressing all areas of transition
- E. Community Education Resources
  - Resources and documents available for sending and receiving programs available at [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org)
- F. Kindergarten Readiness Survey
  - A sample survey for receiving programs to complete to provide information for the transition teams to use when outlining action plans
- G. *Happy, Healthy, Grow Up Great* kit information
  - This free resource is available for families from PNC bank. Please send families to a local branch to request this resource or it can be downloaded at [www.pncgrowupgreat.com](http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com)