

Suggestions to Support Child to School Transitions

Helping a child make a successful transition to Kindergarten takes a team effort. Families, preschool programs and providers (sending programs), school district teachers and administrators (receiving programs) and the community can work together to assure a smooth and comfortable transition for a child. The following suggestions provide ideas for all the stakeholders involved in transition.

Families can:

- Know what is expected for the registration process to Kindergarten
- Discuss the upcoming transition with the child
- Become involved with the early learning program and the school

Sending programs can:

- Practice routines like lining up and going to the cafeteria during Preschool
- Shorten nap time as the new school year approaches
- Preschool teachers stay in contact with their former students
- Send notes to the K teacher to put on children's desks for the first day of school
- Talk about the changes that are coming with children
- Meet with parents and provide information
- Schedule meeting with Kindergarten teachers
- Attend cross program Professional Development activities

Receiving programs can:

- Arrange for the Elementary principal or Kindergarten teacher to visit and read to children at local early learning programs
- Have similar toys and materials to early learning programs to provide continuity
- Create social stories (see sample in this section) or Welcome to School books
- Popsicles on the Playground – Kindergarten children and their families are invited to get to know each other and the school personnel while enjoying a cool treat on the school playground.
- School bus ride – Entering Kindergarten children come to school to take a bus ride and learn bus safety rules. Parents can ride along or can meet the teacher for an information session.
- Staggered entrance – ½ the children begin one day, the other half attend the next day. The third day all children attend
- Allow children to return to their preschool to talk about what Kindergarten is like
- K teacher can provide a "What to Expect in Our Classroom" letter, book or video
- Provide school and classroom tours for children and families
- Become Pen Pals with a PreK class

Communities can:

- Develop transition plans with all stakeholders
- Provide information at Kindergarten registration
- Participate in Community Engagement groups