

## Transition Basic Steps

### **Begin with the end in mind!**

#### **Transition preparation**

- begin in early spring, or even the fall before the child transitions
- identify key school staff
- develop an overall plan with parental involvement
- list necessary furniture and other materials
- prepare receiving teacher
- prepare student and family

#### **Ways to help the receiving teacher**

- schedule time to discuss the student's strengths, interests and needs
- allow the teacher time to visit the current classroom
- provide the teacher with a current IEP
- provide the student's behavior support plan
- provide a menu of reinforcers

#### **Ways to help the student**

- let the student visit the new classroom
- let the sending and receiving teachers work with the student
- develop a social story
- place a favorite toy in the new classroom
- identify a peer buddy in the receiving classroom

#### **Ways to help the family**

- consider having parents observe a kindergarten class in the fall the year before their child will start kindergarten. The first few weeks of kindergarten look very different from the smoothly running classroom that may exist by spring. Parents may be more reassured about their child's abilities when they see what is expected at the beginning of kindergarten, rather than what is expected at the end
- be clear in communications about what to expect and what is expected (e.g. give details such as, purpose(s) of each meeting, length of time the meeting will take, who will be present at the meeting, materials/information that the family/parent may wish to bring along, etc.)
- provide names and contact information of other families/parents who have already gone through transitioning their child into kindergarten.
- offer a variety of ways the family/parent can participate in their child's transition preparation and educational program (adding details to the social story, sharing information about preferred items and activities, such as, names of favorite songs, books, toys, snacks, etc.)
- maintain clear, consistent communication with the family/parent about how their child is adjusting to kindergarten. during the first few weeks (daily notes, photos, phone calls, email, etc.)