
Transition Tips for Educators

How can kindergarten teachers and school district leaders support transitions?

- Create a shared vision among all staff that the mission is to serve all students as a continuum from prekindergarten through grade 12.
- Include prekindergarten staff in curriculum planning and professional development opportunities.
- Conduct outreach efforts to establish relationships with feeder schools and programs.
 - * Create and maintain a list of contacts for ease of communication.
 - * Visit programs; meet and learn about incoming kindergarteners.
 - * Host meetings for early childhood program directors and teachers to discuss transition plans.
- Acquire assessment information from early childhood programs to establish students' strengths and prepare to serve students' needs.
- Reach out to local organizations (e.g., libraries; housing authorities; adult education and job training providers; churches; social service organizations) that serve families to ensure that families with children who are not enrolled in prekindergarten programs receive information about kindergarten registration.
- Ensure communications from the district are reciprocal and support the culture, home languages and reading levels for the families of incoming students.
- Hold orientation meetings for children and families prior to the beginning of the school year.
- Provide opportunities for families of entering kindergarteners to meet and begin forming relationships.
- Offer parent workshops and encourage the school's parent organization to include incoming kindergarten families in planning.
- Most importantly, remember that parents are their children's first teachers and include ways that they can contribute to the discussion of their children's social and academic progress.

How can teachers and leaders in early childhood programs support transitions?

- Provide orientations for children transitioning from home to early childhood programs.
- Reach out to school districts; invite them to visit your program.
- For providers that are not co-located in a school building where kindergarten will be held, take children on a class trip to visit the elementary school.
- Arrange to meet with local providers of prekindergarten and preschool programs to discuss preparing children for kindergarten and beyond.
- Read books to students about kindergarten throughout the year.
- Ensure communications from the program are reciprocal and support the culture, home languages and reading levels for the families of students.
- Invite parents to visit the program and participate in events.
- Most importantly, remember that parents are their children's first teachers and include ways that they can contribute to the discussion of their children's social and academic progress.

Transition Tips for Families

What can families do to support children's transitions to kindergarten?

Children benefit from having families who help to guide them through the transition from home and early childhood programs to kindergarten. Some recommended activities are:

- * Visit the school before the first day of kindergarten.
- * Become familiar with the school, starting with the main office and kindergarten classrooms. Meet teachers, secretaries, custodians and the principal.
- * Attend parent/family orientations, meetings and workshops to learn about your child's new school.
- * Ask about the resources available to you and your child through the school and community agencies.
- * Join the school's parent group, sometimes called a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) or Parent Teacher Association (PTA).
- * Think about what you can bring to a team of parents and teachers, and volunteer to help in a way that makes you feel comfortable.



- * Meet parents of children who will also attend your child's school. Start or participate in groups where the children can get to know one another.
- * Establish daily family practices and schedules that are similar to school routines.
- * Provide your child access to print materials at home. For example, take out a library card and make frequent visits with your child.
- * Read books about school with your child.

- * Know what your child needs to know and assist them in their transition.
- * Become your child's advocate and ensure their needs are being met.
- * Remember, you are your child's most important teacher.

