

Transition: What is it and why it is important

What is transition? Transition is a major life change. For young children, moving from and early learning program to kindergarten is one of the most significant transitions they will experience.

Children must learn to cope with:

- ★ A change in place.
- ★ A change in expectations.
- ★ Adjustment to a new peer group.
- ★ A new authority figure.
- ★ A new role as a student.

Transition is a period of adjustment. All adjustments can be stressful. When families, teachers, and school administrators work together, the process of transitioning to kindergarten becomes a smooth process and reduces the amount of stress experienced by the child.

Who benefits from transition activities? Children, families, early learning providers and schools all benefit from effective transition activities.

The child experiences:

- ★ Increased self-confidence
- ★ Improved relations with other children and adults
- ★ Increased motivation and openness to new experiences

The family experiences:

- ★ Increased confidence that their children will learn in the new setting and that the teachers and other adults understand their child's needs
- ★ A sense of pride and commitment in their ongoing involvement
- ★ Improved self-confidence in their ability to communicate and influence the educational system

The early learning provider experiences:

- ★ Increased knowledge of the children and a better ability to meet individual needs
- ★ Increased parental and community support
- ★ More resources and a larger network of professional support
- ★ Increased awareness of the early childhood programs and community services available
- ★ A renewed sense of professionalism and pride in their efforts to reach out to young children and their families

The school experiences:

- ★ A child who enters a formal school setting ready to learn
- ★ An informed, supportive and involved family
- ★ An early learning provider who is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for the child