



Transition Checklist

(For parents, preschool, and kindergarten teacher)

Everyone recognizes that transitioning from preschool to kindergarten is a significant period of change in the life of a child and those who care for him. The goal of this checklist is to get everyone's input as to exactly what is going to be different and to come up with ideas for dealing with these changes.

What will be different for the child?

- Building
- Larger classroom
- High Child/Adult ratio
- More structure
- different equipment
- less free time
- longer day
- bathrooms larger/different
- new playground
- greater distance from home
- new staff
- busing/walking
- new children
- cafeteria
- less freedom of movement
- less teacher attention

What will be different for the parent/guardian?

- Less time in classroom/program
- Less rapport initially
- More formal/more structure
- Less total interaction
- Fewer communication opportunities

How can these issues be addressed?

Early childhood program teacher

- make parents aware of rights
- share info. About new school/classroom
- be an advocate for parents as partners in education

Kindergarten teacher

- invite parents to come observe the classroom
- read information about the child provided
- discuss volunteer activities
- provide information about working with their children at home

Parent

- keep communication lines open
- participate in meetings
- inform the teacher of any significant changes or problems that may occur at home (these may affect your child's success in the classroom)



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Transition, Parent Tip Sheet: Transition Checklist

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