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 HIPPY (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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