

Building a Kindergarten Transition Plan



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1

Today's Goals



- To understand the importance of effective transition practices.
- To gain an understanding of various transition activities and practices your school/district can implement.
- To provide educators with a framework for creating a school or district Transition to Kindergarten Plan.

2

Kindergarten Transition



To ensure continuity, it is important that schools help create connections that support children and families during the transition to school.

3

KINDERGARTEN
TRANSITION
CONNECTIONS

Transition Connections

4

KINDERGARTEN
TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

- School to Children
- School to Family
- School to School/Community


5

KINDERGARTEN
TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

School to Children Connection:

- To increase children's familiarity with the kindergarten setting.
- To provide experiences for children to build positive relationships with staff and with peers who are transitioning into kindergarten.

6



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

School to Family Connection:

- To increase collaboration between families and staff and promote parent involvement within the school.
- To build an appropriate and culturally relevant partnership between family and school which supports positive school outcomes.

National Education Goals Panel. School Readiness: *Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children*. Trends Research Brief, October, 2001.

7




KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

School to School/Community Connection:

- To promote continuity within the transition process and facilitate cohesion in services offered to children.
- To coordinate and integrate effective communication between schools and community regarding the transition plan.
- To collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services and civic participation.

National Education Goals Panel. School Readiness: *Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children*. Trends Research Brief, October, 2001.

8



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

- All activities for children must include parent participation and educational opportunities.
- The activities presented in Chapter 2 are an open-ended list and districts are encouraged to add their own ideas and activities.

9



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

There are five critical elements or keys to successful transitions as children move from preschool (or home) to kindergarten.

10



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

- Create and promote connections and relationships within the community.
- Maintain ongoing community and cooperation between preschool and kindergarten staff.
- Prepare children for the transition.
- Involve parents in the transition.
- Provide program continuity through a developmentally appropriate curriculum for preschool and kindergarten children.

Ferguson, C. (2005). *Easing the Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten: A Guide for Early Childhood Teachers and Administrators.*

11




KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

Practices into Action...

....examples of Kindergarten Transition Activities


12



Kindergarten Transitions

Planning for Implementation

13




Planning for Implementation

To increase the number and intensity of the connections among partners

- School to Children
- School to Family
- School to School/Community


14



Steps for Planning an Effective Kindergarten Transition

- Establish Team
- Generate Ideas
- Create a Timeline
- Anticipate and Minimize Barriers
- Implement Activities and Practices
- Assess, Evaluate, and Revise


15



Planning for Implementation Establishing a Transition Team

- Requires involvement of all major participants at the school and/or district level.
- Critical to have a strong leadership team to set the stage for a successful transition plan.


16



Planning for Implementation Importance of a Strong Team

- Broad perspective
- Represents the needs of all transition partners
- Makes planning and implementation more effective
- Influences the effectiveness of the transition

17



Planning for Implementation Challenges in Teamwork

■ Authority level	■ Interest
■ Emotions	■ Expectations
■ Opinions	■ Resources
■ Abilities	■ Perceptions
■ Agendas	

18

Planning for Implementation Roles and Responsibilities



Defining the roles and responsibilities of each member will lead to the smooth operation of the transition team.

The team responsibilities include *creating a timeline* including the policies, procedures, activities, and implementation for transitioning into kindergarten.

19

Planning for Implementation Transition Needs Assessment



Conduct a transition needs assessment

- Current Practices
- Identifying Gaps

20

Planning for Implementation Facilitate Regular Meetings



Setting Goals

- Short Term
- Long Term
- Barriers and Busters

21



Planning for Implementation Generating Transition Ideas

- Brainstorming
- What will be your focus as a school or district?

22



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION TIMELINE

What We Know

23



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION TIMELINE

The move from preschool to kindergarten is one of the most important transitions a child will make.

24



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION TIMELINE

The transition period involves not only how children adjust to kindergarten but also how families and schools interact and cooperate.

It is not just the child who makes the transition!

25



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION TIMELINE



There are transition activities that need to be considered prior to the transition process.

There are transition activities that need to be considered on an on-going basis.

There are transition activities to be done throughout the calendar year.

<http://www.transitiononestop.org/Documents/Publications/Common%20Files/Transition%20Calendar%20Sample.doc>

26




KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION TIMELINE

- Establish a timeline for activities to occur.
- Organize transition activities throughout the year.

27



KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION TIMELINE



- **Encourage** families to provide opportunities for their child to make friends with children in their community.
- **Connect** children/families with similar cultural backgrounds to those entering program next year.
- If child has a disability, **include** functional goals and objectives/outcomes in the IFSP or IEP.
- Create a **"Learn about Transition" bag** filled with learning material (selected according to developmental level of child and goals set) for children to use at home with parents.
- Have a **Transition Section** in your program newsletter to send information home re next environment - teachers, staff updates or program happenings. **Expand** your mailing list to include programs where you receive children or send children.

28

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION TIMELINE





- **JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH**
- **APRIL – MAY – JUNE**
- **JULY – AUGUST – SEPTEMBER**
- **OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER**

<http://www.transitiononestop.org/Documents/Publications/Common%20Files/Transition%20Calendar%20Sample.doc>

29

Benefits of Facilitating Transition



- Children will like and look forward to school.
- Children will show steady growth in academic skills.
- Parents will become actively involved in their children's education.

Ramey & Ramey, 1994

30

The Big Picture

Questions for the Future

- What is your vision for effective transitions?
- What are some barriers to your vision?
- What are some existing strengths of transitions in your community?
- What are some existing limitations?
- What leadership is needed to make this work?
- What next steps will you take to improve transitions?

31

REMEMBER

"To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you are going so that you better understand where you are now so that the steps you take are always in the right direction."

32
