

Quick Reference


(Checklist for transition to kindergarten)


Caregiver/Preschool Teacher Tip #2





As a teacher of four-year-olds, there are many things you can do to help children and families prepare for the coming school year.


For the Child


 Identify birth dates of the children to determine who will be eligible for kindergarten in the coming year.

 Continue planning lessons to include activities to develop emerging skills.


 Provide activities to expose children to kindergarten readiness skills.

 Plan a visit to a kindergarten classroom where children from your classroom might be attending the following year.

 Discuss similarities and differences between preschool and kindergarten.

 Read and discuss books about starting school.



 Encourage children to ask questions and to express their fears.



As the year progresses, gradually increase children's responsibilities.



Create a scrapbook of the schools that the children will be going to. Have pictures of the buildings, the kindergarten staff, the administrators, etc. Place the scrapbook(s) in the reading center so that children have ample opportunities to look through them.



For the Family



Encourage parents to attend kindergarten registration (with their child).



Have a parent conference early in the year and discuss what parents can do at home to help their child with kindergarten readiness skills.



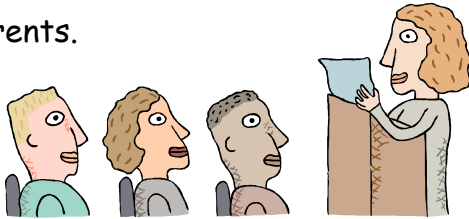
Find out what school each child will attend and provide parents with contact information for that school, including school address, principal's name, and phone number of the school.



At the last parent conference, give parents a copy of the book "All About Me" found in the **download section**. Explain how to complete the book and what to do with the completed version.



Invite school personnel or PTA representative to talk with parents.



Create and distribute a "Buddy List" of children who will be attending the same school. Encourage parents to arrange playtime with these buddies before the new school year begins.



Distribute flyers about kindergarten registration.

For the Preschool Staff



Participate in cross-program visits, classroom observations, and/or in-service trainings.



Become pen pals with a kindergarten class, periodically sending notes that the children dictate, along with photos and children's art work.



Become an active member of either the community-level or school-level transition team. If a team does not currently exist, suggest forming one.



Remember that transition is "everybody's job." Communicate with all concerned parties.



Invite and welcome elementary school staff to visit.



Develop a transition folder to go with the child to his new school. Include samples of his work, a list of his strengths and needs, a list of his likes and dislikes, and a note dictated by the child about something special he did during the year. Attach the child's photograph to the folder.



Plan with parents and kindergarten teachers to provide some common routines.



Become educated about how a family's culture can affect a child transitions to school.

