

BAG OF TRICKS

Transition Tools & Tips



Playing is Learning!

Transitions are those periods of time when the children are moving from one activity to the next. Because waiting, with no directions from the teacher, is difficult for young children, transitions can be a problem. Even a few minutes seems like a long time to children. The usual result is that children will wander, run around, or do things they are not supposed to do. Dealing with those behaviors further delays the next activity. Even if you experience no behavior problems, having short, smooth transitions means that more time will be spent in meaningful activities.

Guidelines

1. Develop a consistent daily schedule with as few transitions as possible built into it.
2. Indicate when a transition is about to occur and what is going to happen next.
3. Have materials ready for the next activity so the transition will be short.
4. Begin the next activity as soon as even one child is ready. The other children will be attracted to what is going on and will join quickly.
5. Keep a collection of fingerplays, games, and songs on index cards in your pocket for instant activities.
6. Teach children about the different signals that you will use for different transitions and what you expect from them.
7. Avoid having all children move at once. Forming lines and waiting for others create noise, crowded situations, competition, frustration, and aggression.
8. Have a positive attitude and act in a calm, respectful way with a conviction in your voice that the children will follow the requests.
9. Allow for requests of and suggestions by the children.
10. Use planned and spontaneous transitions to assess new concepts to be taught or to reinforce knowledge previously taught.
11. Use the same careful planning and considerations as for other activities. Appropriate transitions help children move through the routine with ease.
12. Plan some transitions to quiet the children (to relax, settle down); plan others to stimulate participation, cooperation, or activity.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- Increased attention spans
- Receptive and expressive language
- Creative thinking
- Problem solving
- Observing
- Self-confidence
- Listening
- Large and small motor skills
- Social interaction
- Independence
- Cooperation/Taking turns
- Self-regulation/Inner control

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Ten Types of Transitions

- Starting the Day
- Hellos
- Coming to Circle Time
- Leaving Circle Time
- From Here to There-Moving
- Waiting
- Clean-Up
- Eating Time-Washing Hands
- R & R Relaxing and Resting
- Goodbyes

Transition Techniques

- Attention Getters-Keeping Focus
- ER's- Endorphin Releases- Brain & Body Breaks
- A Round of Applause- Celebrate Learning
- Fingerplays-Chants-Songs
- Props

TYPES OF TRANSITIONS

STARTING THE DAY

Sign In Board (As parents "sign in" their child at school, encourage children to sign in also)

Hang a chart paper tablet outside or on your door. Tie a piece of string or yarn to a marker and attach to the side of the chart tablet. Ask the children to sign their names or make their "marks" on the sign in board as they arrive

HELLOS

Knock- Knock on the Door

Knock- knock on the door, (Right fist knocks on palm of left hand)

I live on the 2nd floor. (Hold up 2 fingers on right hand)

I go up the stairs, (Walk 2 fingers of right hand up left arm)

And who do I see? (Fingers make glasses, look around room)

I see child's name looking at me!

COMING TO CIRCLE TIME

Bells Are Ringing

(Tune: "Are You Sleeping")

Bells are ringing, (walk around room ringing bell as you sing)

Bells are ringing.

Hear them chime,

Hear them chime.

Telling all the children,

Telling all the children,

Circle Time, Circle Time.

LEAVING CIRCLE TIME

All Children Who...

Say: "All children who ate eggs for breakfast may leave circle." Children who ate eggs leave.

Say: "All children who ate chocolate ice cream sundaes for breakfast may

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leave circle."

Children laugh and respond with, "No, Teacher Sharron, say cereal, say toast, etc." They enjoy the humor of your intentional errors. Continue until all children are dismissed



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FROM HERE TO THERE—MOVING

Days of the Week

(Tune: "The Addams Family")

There's Sunday and there's Monday.

There's Tuesday and there's Wednesday.

There's Thursday and there's Friday,

And then there's Saturday.

Days of the week. (Clap, clap)

Days of the week. (Clap, clap)

Days of the week, days of the week.

Days of the week. (Clap, clap)

Days of the week. (Clap, clap)

WAITING

Go Bananas

(Tune: "George of the Jungle")

Form, form, form, form banana. (Raise right arm on each word until it is straight up above head)

Form, form, form, form banana. (Raise left arm on each word until straight & touching right hand)

Peel, peel, peel, peel banana (Lower right arm on each word until it is touching right side of body)

Peel, peel, peel, peel banana (Lower left arm on each word until it is touching left side of body)

Go, go, go, go bananas (jog quickly in place, wave arms all about)

Go, go, go, go bananas (jog quickly in place, wave arms all about)

FREEZE! (Stop instantly like a silly frozen statue)

CLEAN-UP

Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho (Tune: from movie "Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs")

Heigh-ho, heigh-ho,

It's clean-up time you know.

Put the toys away for another day,

Heigh-ho, heigh-ho!

EATING TIME—WASHING HANDS

Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(Tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Wash, wash, wash your hands. (Vertical rubbing of hands together)

Play your handy game. (Wave hands, palms out, fingers up)

Rub and scrub and scrub and rub. (Rub hands together in washing motion)

Germs go down the drain. (Arms up, wiggle fingers, lowering arms)

HA! (Loud clap)

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R & R—Relaxing and Resting

Sleeping Snakes Yoga

Lie on stomach, knees bent, legs up, hands with palms down on ground by shoulders

When I say, "Wake up snakes," breathe in through the nose (inhale), raising chest and straightening arms.

Hiss (SSSSSS) out the breath through the mouth (exhale), as the snakes go back to sleeping.

Repeat 2 more times.

GOODBYES

It's Time to Say Good-bye (Tune: "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain")

Oh, it's time to say good-bye to all my friends. So-o-o long (wave)

Oh, it's time to say good-bye to all my friends. So-o-o long (wave)

It is time to say good-bye,

Give a smile and wink your eye.

It's time to say good-bye to all my friends. So-o-o long (wave)

TRANSITION TECHNIQUES

ATTENTION GETTERS—Keeping Focus

Sushi Roll

Sushi roll (roll arms in front of body)

Apples on top (stretch arms above head like picking apples off a tree)

We've been talking quite a-lot (fingers touch thumbs and open and shut at side of face)

Now it's time for us to stop!(zip lips shut with hand going from one side to the other)

ER's—Endorphin Releases—Brain and Body Breaks

Hi! My Name Is Joe

Begin chanting and ask children to join with words and actions as soon as they catch onto the rhythm.

CHORUS:

Hi! My name is Joe.

I have a dog and a wife and a family.

One day, my boss came up to me and said, "Joe, are you busy?"

I said, "No."

He said, "Turn the button with your..."

RIGHT HAND (twist hand as if turning a door knob as chant chorus)

LEFT HAND (continue twisting with both hands as chant chorus)

RIGHT FOOT (continue twisting with both hands and your right foot as chant chorus)

LEFT FOOT (continue twisting with both hands and both feet as chant chorus)

HEAD (continue twisting with both hands, both feet, head-going back and forth as chant chorus)

BODY continue twisting with both hands, both feet, your head and your body as you chant—

Hi! My name is Joe.

I have a dog and a wife and a family.

One day, my boss came up to me and said, "Joe, are you busy?"

I said, "YES!"



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A ROUND OF APPLAUSE—Celebrate Learning

Na-na, na-na

Na-na, na-na (Wave arms back and forth above head)

Na-na, na-na

Hey, hey,

Good job! (Clap on each word)

Repeat

FINGERPLAYS, CHANTS & SONGS

A Ram Sam Sam

A ram sam, sam (Pound fists on each word)

A ram sam, sam (Pound fists on each word)

Guli, guli, guli, guli, guli (Roll hands in front of body)

Ram, sam, sam (Pound fists on each word)

A raffi, (Hands above head arching downward)

A raffi, (Hands above head arching downward)

Guli, guli, guli, guli, guli (Roll hands in front of body)

Ram, sam, sam (Pound fists on each word)

PROPS

Toilet Paper Tube Kazoo

Pull it out of your bag of tricks as the children gather and start humming some familiar tunes.

Let each child make their own kazoo and conduct a hum-a-long.

Materials:

Cardboard toilet paper tube, dot markers, wax paper, rubber band, hole punch

Directions:

Decorate tube with markers. Punch a hole about 2 inches from one end. Cut out a square of wax paper. Use it to cover the other end of the tube and secure it with a rubber band. Blow or hum into the open end to make great sounds.

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