

Transition-Family Activities

Transition to and from preschool

Preschool is an exciting time for children and families, but transitions can be hard for children. Helping to prepare your child for the transitions that are happening in their life will make this process smoother and allow them to face transitions with greater confidence. Provided below are the main types of transitions that occur for children in preschool along with strategies to help you support your child during these transitions. Preschool staff are always available to discuss individual strategies with families as needed.

Children transitioning to preschool:

- It may be helpful to read stories about starting school. A few examples about starting school are:
 - **Going to School** by Anne Civardi
 - **Preschool Day Hooray!** by Linda Leopold
 - **Maisy Goes to Preschool** by Lucy Cousins
- If your child is starting school at the beginning of the year, please visit our school during the summer. Our playground is open during daylight hours. If at all possible, attend our Open House held before the first day of school. This allows your child the opportunity to see his/her classroom and meet the teacher and teacher assistant.
- If your child starts school after the start of the school year, contact the YMCA coordinator or your child's teacher to schedule a tour prior to his/her the first day of attendance. You are welcome to come visit on Friday's to allow your child to explore your child's classroom during school hours.
- Read the social story posted on the school website about starting preschool in our district. Pictures of the building and classrooms are included so that children have an idea of where they are going and what the routines will be.

Children Transitioning to another class or teacher:

We group our students as best as possible with the same age groups. We currently have three preschool classes to better prepare your student for Kindergarten.

- Meet your child's new teacher prior to the transition and visit the classroom. This will help you talk about the new class and what your child can expect.
- For more difficult transitions, talk with your child's teacher about how many visits your child should make to the new classroom prior to changing classes.
- If the transition may prove difficult, the school may provide a social story to assist in the transition.

Children transitioning to Kindergarten:

- Preschool teachers provide classroom activities that foster kindergarten readiness skills. The focus is on vocabulary acquisition, phonemic awareness, concepts of print, writing processes, oral communication, number sense, measurement, geometry, spatial sense, patterns, data analysis (graphs), earth science, life science, physical science,

responsibilities, collecting information to make a decision, self-regulation, problem-solving, and completing self-help tasks independently.

- Parents are encouraged to positively talk with their child about kindergarten. There are a number of starting kindergarten books. Here are a few:
 - **Kindergarten Rocks** written and illustrated by Katie Davis
 - **The Night Before Kindergarten** written by Natasha Wing and illustrated by Julie Durrell
 - **Miss Kindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten** written by Joseph Slate and illustrated by Ashley Wolff
 - **Countdown to Kindergarten** written by Alison McGhee and illustrated by Henry Bliss
 - **Welcome to Kindergarten** written and illustrated by Anne Rockwell
 - **Look Out Kindergarten Here I Come** written and illustrated by Nancy Carelson
 - **Off to Kindergarten** written and illustrated by Tony Johnston
 - **When You Go To Kindergarten** written by James Howe with photographs by Betsey Imershein
- If your child is starting school at the beginning of the year, please visit our school during the summer. Our playground is open during daylight hours. If at all possible, attend our Open House held before the first day of school. This allows your child the opportunity to see his/her classroom and meet the teacher.
- Children participate in a fun day prior to the end of the school year. Graduating students are acknowledged and provided an opportunity to say goodbye to peers and teachers.
- If your child is on an IEP, you will be involved in updating your child's educational plan to make sure that needed supports are in place prior to the start of the school year. An additional IEP meeting and/or evaluation meeting may be held as part of the transition activities.
- Kindergarten teachers meet the children in the spring during kindergarten screening.
- As needed, children may visit the kindergarten multiple times during the spring or before school starts the following year to help with students experience more difficult transitions.
- Records are transferred to the appropriate kindergarten building. There is a parent meeting night for incoming kindergarten parents of typically developing children as well as children with special needs. These meetings are to discuss policies, content standards, meet the teacher and tour the building.
- Teachers provide parents with information regarding kindergarten readiness skills at parent-teacher conferences as well as in their newsletters.