

NM Public School Preschool Transition Tips

A transition is a short period of time that occurs in the preschool classroom when moving from one activity to another.

Transitions are an essential element throughout the preschool day, and teachers should support children by providing engaging activities during this time. It is important for a teacher's practice to include whole class warnings before and during transitions, to teach expectations for transitions, and to provide positive descriptive feedback to the children who are engaged during the transition activity (Hemmeter, Fox, & Snyder, 2014).

Environmental Cues, such as colorful footprints or dots, can be placed in the environment to indicate to children how and where to place their bodies during transitions.



Strategies for Smooth Transitions: (EI 5.2 Follows Directions; 18.1 Self Control)

- Use a visual schedule
- Build transitions into the daily schedule and have a plan for transitions
- Reduce number of transitions
- Use an auditory cue, such as a bell or chimes, to signal a transition
- Have a clear way to signal when an activity is about to be over
- Be prepared with songs, movement, and games to reduce wait time
- Use transitions as teachable moments

Transition songs can be a way to engage children as they wait for the bathroom, while hand-washing, or walking as a whole group.

Transition songs such as "Can You Hear Me?" and "The Clean-Up Song" can be used to signal children that a transition is starting.

References:

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

Hemmeter, M., Fox, L. & Snyder, P. (2014). *Teaching pyramid observation tool for preschool classrooms manual, research edition*. Baltimore, Maryland: Brookes Publishing Co.