

Classroom Activities for Kindergarten Transition

These activities can be used by early learning programs or families to help develop children's every day skills and to help familiarize children with kindergarten activities. These ideas are to familiarize the children with new concepts and/or routines so they should be fun! Be sure to have many discussions (large group, small group, and individual) about why you are doing these activities.

Classroom Based Activities

- Have the children practice raising hands to answer questions and waiting for acknowledgement from the teacher.
- Practice carrying items on cafeteria trays (or cookie sheets). This can be done in program, as well as during meals and snacks or on the playground.
- Learn to open individual milk cartons and insert straws.
- Learn to open individual condiment (ketchup, mustard, etc.) packets.
- Practice walking as a group from the classroom to other locations in the building.
- Explain what roll call is and practice appropriate response when name is called.
- Practice getting on and off a school bus and looking for bus number.
- Plan activities that require cooperative interaction. Such as:
 - Work with a friend to put together puzzles
 - Work with a friend to match cards
 - Work with a friend to match classmates' names
 - Group or partner playground games

Social Based Activities

- Teachers can complete home visits to meet the child and to become acclimated with the child and family.
- Provide opportunities for various adult leaders to guide children in activities. For example, another teacher or center director can come into the class to read to the children, or guide them through an activity.

Literacy Based Activities

- Constantly provide opportunities for children to experience literacy related activities. For example, reading to the child, small groups, or the entire class. Encourage families to visit the library with their child, get library cards for their child, and attend library sessions involving story times.
- Create Reading Buddy, a stuffed animal who travels home with a child for the weekend. The child can read to the family with assistance from the Reading Buddy. Have the child bring their story into class on Monday to share their story with classmates.
- Set up a lending library for pre-K families. Encourage families to visit a new book each week.
- Provide writing opportunities for children, such as signing in and out each day. Encourage writing and language skills with multiple opportunities throughout the day.
- Practice using a library card and checking out library books from the public library, classroom library, or site office.
- Read aloud children's books that are about Kindergarten.