

Ready or Not, Here They Come! Teacher Transitions

I don't know who transition is harder on—the child, the family, or ME! Does this sound familiar? Before the new school year begins, teachers everywhere are thinking about the upcoming challenges that accompany the process of transition.

Keep in mind the following challenges and be sensitive to the needs of all individuals that are involved in the process of transitioning to kindergarten.

Transition challenges for the child:

- ★ New building
- ★ Larger classroom
- ★ Less adult interaction
- ★ Less free time
- ★ Less outdoor play
- ★ Differences in discipline
- ★ More structure

Transition challenges for the family:

- ★ Less interaction with the teacher
- ★ The amount of time spent in school may be shorter and the family has to find additional care for non-school hours
- ★ Lack of familiarity with personnel and routines
- ★ Transportation issues
- ★ Feeling less self-confident when dealing with school personnel

Transition challenges for the teacher:

- ★ Finding meaningful ways to involve ALL families
- ★ Feeling intimidated by the family
- ★ Keeping good communication going with each family
- ★ Identifying ways to provide activities with little or no funding to support them