

Section: School in Community

Members of the community want to know that children are successful and thriving in school. They want productive citizens and schools that are models of excellence. When children enter school ready to be successful learners these goals are promoted. Adults can support young children’s successful transition to Kindergarten by viewing the transition as a collaborative process that happens over time. “Transition has to be understood in terms of the settings that contribute to child development (e.g., family, classroom, community) and the connections and relationships among these settings at any given time and across time.” (Pianta & Kraft-Sayre, 2003). What works in one community may not be effective or even needed in another community.

Some communities have formed stand-alone transition teams and some work with members or groups within the community, like child care providers and families, who have an interest in ensuring a smooth transition process. Some counties may have a Local Education and Resource Networks (LEARN) that are members of the early childhood education and other community members with vested interest in Early Childhood Education. The goals of LEARN may include outreach plans to educate the community about the benefits of early education; ensuring that legislators are well informed regarding the benefits of quality early learning programs; and facilitating linkages between school districts, early learning teachers and other community stakeholders to develop successful transition planning and to create. To locate information about LEARN partners in your county, please visit www.papromiseforchildren.com.

The resources in this section provide information for working with community members in assisting with transition.

- ★ **School in Community Overview**
- ★ **Transition to Formal School for Early Care Worksheet:** Worksheet of possible strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Transition to Formal School for Early Care Worksheet:** Worksheet of possible strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Best Practice Rubric Action Plan**
- ★ **Creating a Transition Team and Plan:** Framework for putting a transition team and plan together
- ★ **Developing a Collaborative Team Approach to Support Family and Community Connections with Schools: What Can School Leader Do?** (*National Center for Family & Community Connections with Schools*): A article which highlights the discussion of an often overlooked portion of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation: The School-Parent Compact
- ★ **Enhancing Community and School Connections**
- ★ **Kindergarten Registration Public Service Announcement and Template**
- ★ **Enhancing community and school connections:** Suggestions for everyone involved in transition activities

For additional resources, see the OCDEL Transition to Formal Schooling Toolkit.