

## Section: School to School

Continuity across early childhood services in which all programs for children birth-age 8 in the community work together can ensure consistent and effective services throughout these important years. Children whose teachers use appropriate practice in both early learning programs and kindergarten can build on earlier experiences to help children make sense of their world. Teachers using “developmentally appropriate practice, whether in a preschool or a primary classroom, should respond to the natural curiosity of young children, reaffirm a sense of self, promote positive dispositions toward learning, and help build increasingly complex skills in the use of language, problem solving, and cooperation” (Lombardi, 1992).

When sending and receiving teachers use similar strategies, children adjust more easily to school. Attending joint professional development sessions can help teachers to communicate about and share information about curriculum. It is essential that both early learning teachers and elementary school staff work together to overcome the barriers to smooth transitions for children and families.

Professionals in early learning programs have gathered a great deal of information about a transitioning child that can be accessed by the kindergarten teacher, ensuring a smooth transition for the child and for the school. Creating a transition plan should include the chance for sending and receiving educators to share information about a child’s progress. Receiving programs need to reach out to those children who have had home experiences prior to Kindergarten in order to gather background information.

For additional supports, please see the sections *Family to School*, *Community in School*, and *Child to School*.

The following tools can help develop a relationship that will provide a smooth transition for a child entering kindergarten.

- ★ **School to School Overview**
- ★ **Transition to Formal Schooling - Best Practice Rubric (Sending) Worksheet:** Worksheet of possible strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Transition to Formal Schooling - Best Practice Rubric (Receiving) Worksheet:** Worksheet of possible strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Enhancing school to school connections:** Ideas for connecting sending and receiving programs to take advantage of the opportunities to interact and develop a shared understanding during transition activities
- ★ **Early Learning Program Visit Record Sheet Template & Sample:** A customizable template to assist kindergarten teachers when visiting an early learning program. Also available is a sample of a completed form.
- ★ **Formal School Visit Record Sheet Template & Sample:** A customizable template to assist early learning teachers when visiting a formal school classroom. Also available is a sample of a completed form.
- ★ **Ready or Not, Here They Come! Teacher Transitions:** A review of transition challenges faced by teachers, children, and families

- ★ **School Snapshot Template**
- ★ **Transition Plan Checklist for Early Learning programs:** A one-page checklist that guides users through necessary steps in the transition process.
- ★ **Transition Plan Checklist for Formal School settings:** A one-page checklist that guides users through necessary steps in the transition process.
- ★ **Strategies for Early Learning Professionals, Preparing Children for Transitioning into Formal School Settings Checklist:** One-page checklist that early learning programs can use to evaluate their process.