

Transition Basics

Elements of successful transitions:

- Clear goals
- Clear expectations
- Clear communication
- Support for desired behavior (teaching or training, environment, resources.)
- Positive acknowledgement
- Active monitoring of progress

Transition Factors:

- Temperament/personality
- Cultural differences
- Desire to transition
- Level of understanding
- Communication
- Competing priorities
- Grief or sadness

To create successful classroom transitions:

- Plan strategies that will ensure that all children are actively engaged
- Define and teach clear expectations
- Identify and directly teach clear, simple transition steps
- Arrange the physical environment to support the transition, prevent congestion, minimize distraction, and allow easy traffic flow
- Identify an auditory and/or visual signal for gaining the attention of all students (if possible, universal for the school)
- Provide visual or movement cues for transition expectations/steps
- Provide individualized signals or support as needed
- Use directions that tell children what to do, rather than what not to do
- Provide positive descriptive acknowledgement
- Use active supervision (move, scan, reinforce, correct)



Challenging Transition Behaviors:

- Refusal to stop the current activity
- Refusal to move to the next activity
- Disturbing or distracting peers
- Disruptive behavior to escape a difficult or nonpreferred activity
- Impatience to move, not wanting to wait for the group to be ready or wait for a turn
- Problems entering and engaging in a new activity

Intentional planning makes transitions easier for everyone!