

## Enhancing Community and School Connections

Investing in young children's education is an economic imperative. Involving business partners and other stakeholders in the transition process ensures a level of understanding about the important work of educating young children. The following are suggestions for engaging community partners:

### Families can:

- Promote and support agencies and business that support early childhood education
- Share their stories of children's quality early learning experiences with employers, business leaders and policy makers (Visit [www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com) to tell your story or read the stories from other families.)

### Sending programs can:

- Establish policy coordination through interagency (agencies who coordinate multiple services for a single child) services
- Compile a "Who to Call" resource guide listing community resources
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child, PA Promise for Children Month, or Kid's Fair events
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings

### Receiving programs can:

- Establish policy coordination through interagency services
- Compile a "Who to Call" resource guide listing community resources
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child, PA Promise for Children Month, or Kid's Fair events
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings

### Communities can:

- Identify and communicate community expectations for children
- Present a Class of [graduating year] T-shirt, pencil case, book or backpack to each incoming Kindergartener at registration
- Host a Transition Fair
- Support and advertise Kindergarten registration
- Collaboratively plan Week of the Young Child, PA Promise for Children Month, or Kid's Fair events
- Organize 3-4 yearly meetings which include early learning providers and school district personnel
- Participate in community Transition Conferences and meetings
- Assist with developing joint community transition plans
- Develop and support creation of year long transition activities
- Create and distribute a survey to gather information from early childhood education teachers, Kindergarten teachers, directors and principals about ways to be involved
- Schedule a special event or speaker for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families
- Prepare transition toolkits for collaborative transition teams and provide copies of new information, such as books, research articles and activities, as available
- Encourage local stakeholders to build a lending library for use by families or sending and receiving staff
- Become involved with your Local Education and Resource Network (LEARN) Team.
- Endorse business practices and supports of early learning programs and school, such as donations and flex time for families to attend programs and events