

Enhancing School to School Connections

The sending and receiving programs have a prime opportunity to interact and develop a shared understanding during transition activities. Supporting families and children, engaging in shared professional development, and working collaboratively with community partners are a few ways that both the early learning program and the school can demonstrate a leadership role in the transition process.

Other suggestions include:

Families can:

- Participate in transition planning meetings
- Invite school district personnel to attend family meetings
- Include families in helping to create professional development opportunities

Sending programs can:

- Conduct a teacher swap where the Pre-K teacher and Kindergarten teacher swap classrooms. Some districts and preschools have created a form to indicate what activity was done and an anecdotal record of the visit.
- Adopt- a- class or become pen pals with a Kindergarten class
- Align curriculum and assessment using Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards
- Share curriculum and assessment information with receiving teachers
- Attend joint professional development opportunities with receiving teachers
- Invite district personnel to information about what to expect in Kindergarten during a family meeting
- Provide opportunities for families to ask questions about transition
- Share written and verbal records with families permission with receiving programs
- Expose children to materials that are found in Kindergarten (as appropriate)
- Take a field trip to Kindergarten
- Alumni visits – Have former students who are now in Kindergarten come back to share what Kindergarten is like
- Post notices of school events and Kindergarten registration dates

Receiving programs can:

- Conduct a teacher swap where the Pre-K teacher and K teacher swap classrooms. Some districts and preschools have created a form to indicate what activity was done and an anecdotal record of the visit
- Offer Dinner and Dialogue opportunities for early learning providers and Kindergarten teachers to discuss topics of interest such as standards, social goals, behavior management, etc
- Align curriculum and assessment using Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards
- Share curriculum and assessment information with sending teachers
- Conduct joint professional development opportunities
- Purchase materials that are similar to or consistent with those in early learning programs
- Explore experiences children have had prior to Kindergarten and that extend into the daily schedule

Communities can:

- Create and enact a year long schedule of transition activities
- Plan a Teacher Luncheon that is an opportunity for Preschool and formal school teachers to get to know each other
- Post notices of school events
- Sponsor joint professional development activities