

## Tips and Suggestions to Support Child to School Transitions

**H**elping a child make a successful transition into formal schooling takes a team effort. Families, preschool programs and early learning providers (sending programs), school district teachers and administrators (receiving programs) and the community can work together to assure a smooth and comfortable transition for a child.

The following suggestions provide ideas for everyone to assist in the transition process.

### Families can:

- ★ Know what is expected for the registration process to Kindergarten
- ★ Discuss the upcoming transition with the child
- ★ Become involved with the early learning program and the school

### Sending programs can:

- ★ Practice routines like lining up when moving from one location to the next
- ★ Shorten nap time as the new school year approaches
- ★ Preschool teachers stay in contact with their former students
- ★ Preschool teachers can send notes to the kindergarten teacher to put on children's desks for the first day of school
- ★ Talk to the children and their families about the changes that are coming
- ★ Meet with families and provide information
- ★ Schedule meeting with kindergarten teachers
- ★ Attend cross program Professional Development activities

### Receiving programs can:

- ★ Arrange for the Principal or kindergarten teacher to visit and read to children at local early learning programs
- ★ Have in the kindergarten classroom similar toys, books, and materials to early learning programs to provide continuity
- ★ Create social stories or Welcome to School books
- ★ Host events, like Popsicles on the Playground where kindergarten children and their families are invited to get to know each other and the school staff while enjoying a cool treat on the school playground.
- ★ Invite entering kindergarten children come to school to take a bus ride and learn bus safety rules, and families can meet the teacher for an information session.
- ★ Consider implementing staggered entrance, where half the children begin one day, the other half attend the next day. On the third day, all children attend.
- ★ Allow children to return to their preschool to share what kindergarten is like
- ★ Kindergarten teachers can provide a "What to Expect in Our Classroom" letter, book or video
- ★ Invite children and their families to participate in a school and classroom tour.
- ★ Become Pen Pals with a Pre-K class

### Communities can:

- ★ Develop transition plans with all stakeholders
- ★ Provide information about kindergarten registration