

## Transition: What is it and why it is important

**W**hat is transition? Transition is a major life change. For young children, moving from an early learning program to kindergarten is one of the most significant transitions they will experience.

### Children must learn to cope with:

- ★ A change in place.
- ★ A change in expectations.
- ★ Adjustment to a new peer group.
- ★ A new authority figure.
- ★ A new role as a student.

**Transition is a period of adjustment.** All adjustments can be stressful. When families, teachers, and school administrators work together, the process of transitioning to kindergarten becomes a smooth process and reduces the amount of stress experienced by the child.

**Who benefits from transition activities?** Children, families, early learning providers and schools all benefit from effective transition activities.

### The child experiences:

- ★ Increased self-confidence
- ★ Improved relations with other children and adults
- ★ Increased motivation and openness to new experiences

### The family experiences:

- ★ Increased confidence that their children will learn in the new setting and that the teachers and other adults understand their child's needs
- ★ A sense of pride and commitment in their ongoing involvement
- ★ Improved self-confidence in their ability to communicate and influence the educational system

### The early learning provider experiences:

- ★ Increased knowledge of the children and a better ability to meet individual needs
- ★ Increased parental and community support
- ★ More resources and a larger network of professional support
- ★ Increased awareness of the early childhood programs and community services available
- ★ A renewed sense of professionalism and pride in their efforts to reach out to young children and their families

### The school experiences:

- ★ A child who enters a formal school setting ready to learn
- ★ An informed, supportive and involved family
- ★ An early learning provider who is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for the child