

Section: Child to School

Pianta & Kraft-Sayre (2003) have noted that a successful transition to Kindergarten is a key component of school readiness. This transition to formal schooling sets the tone and directions of a child's school career. Bailey, in Pianta (1999) notes that, "Kindergarten is the place in which children make important conclusions about school as a place where they want to be and about themselves as learners. If no other objectives are accomplished it is essential that the transition to school occur in such a way that children and families have a positive view of the school and that children have a feeling of perceived competence as learners" .

The transition can be exciting because the child is moving to something new that the adults in his or her life regard as important. He or she may be apprehensive about leaving familiar people and routines and facing the unknown. A child entering a new program must learn to cope with an unfamiliar place, changes in expectations, a new role, peer group, and authority figure, and many new experiences. If not handled well, these new experiences and relationships may be stressful for the child. This section provides samples and suggestions to help make transition an exciting event with a high level of comfort.

For additional supports, please see the sections *Family to School*, *Community in School*, and *School to School*.

The following documents are included in this section:

- ★ **Transition to Formal School for Early Care (Sending) Worksheet:** Worksheet of possible strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Transition to Formal School for Early Care (Receiving) Worksheet:** Worksheet of possible strategies for all stakeholders in the transition process
- ★ **Help Me Know Your Child Template:** A customizable template where families provide information about their child to the kindergarten teacher.
- ★ **Making New Kindergartners Feel Welcome:** Strategies for the kindergarten teachers to help students transition into kindergarten.
- ★ **Tips and Suggestions to Support Child to School Transitions:** Ideas for sending and receiving early learning programs, families and school districts to use throughout the transition process.
- ★ **Using Social Stories to Ease Children's Transitions** (*Beyond the Journal, Young Children on the Web, September 2005*): This article reviews a process for using social stories with young children to prepare them for upcoming changes or events
- ★ **Who's Who at Our School Template:** A customizable template for the receiving school to provide to families the names and contact information for school staff.
- ★ **Writing letters to incoming kindergarten students:** Guidelines and customizable templates to assist kindergarten teachers in writing a welcome letter and for pre-K teachers in writing a farewell letter to an outgoing pre-K child.
- ★ **Kindergarten, Here I Come calendar:** A 15-month family/child resource book for preschool children aligned to the Early Learning Standards. This resource can be downloaded at <http://paprom.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=KindergartenHereI>

- ★ **Kindergarten, Here I Am calendar:** A 15-month family/child resource book for Kindergarten children aligned to the Early Learning Standards. This resource can be downloaded at <http://paprom.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=KindergartenHereI>
- ★ **Recipes for Readiness:** A parent, child and family resource aligned to the Early Learning Standards which provides simple early learning activities. http://paprom.convio.net/site/DocServer/OCDEL_Cards_.pdf?docID=11922
- ★ **Learning is Everywhere:** Simple activities for children birth through Kindergarten which aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards (ELS). www.papromiseforchildren.com