

## Section: Family to School

**A**s families begin to prepare for the transition to kindergarten, they feel a range of emotions. There is pride that their child is entering school and will be facing new challenges. There is also concern about how their child will cope with the change. They are apprehensive about their child growing up and having less control over the experiences of the day. They hope that the transition to kindergarten will be a smooth and happy one.

Studies show that successful programs actively involve families in their programs. The family's influence is fundamental in the early years and successful schools welcome family members in ways that go beyond the traditional parent activities such as fundraising, family-teacher conferences, and Back-to-School Night. Ongoing and meaningful two-way communication between families and teachers is important. Families can be involved as decision makers and volunteers.

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

The documents in this section provide information for teachers to include and involve families.

- ★ **Family to School Overview**
- ★ **Transition to Formal Schooling - Best Practice Rubric (Sending) Worksheet**
- ★ **Transition to Formal Schooling - Best Practice Rubric (Receiving) Worksheet**
- ★ **Tips and Suggestions to Support Child to School Transitions:** A list of suggested activities to include and involve families in the transition process
- ★ **Calendar of Events:** A year-round calendar of suggested activities to promote and support transition into a formal school setting
- ★ **Family and Child Snapshot Template:** A customizable template to be sent home from the receiving program for gathering family information
- ★ **Families and Teachers as Partners:** Suggestions and strategies for families to help their child transition into kindergarten and enhance two-way communication
- ★ **Easing the Transition from PreK to Kindergarten: What Schools and Families Can Do to Address Child Readiness** (*National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools*): This brief provides information on what schools and families can do to address child readiness
- ★ **Ten Tips for Involving Families through Internet-Based Communication** (*NAEYC Spotlight on Teaching Preschoolers*): This article provides practical strategies for improving home-school communication through use of technology.
- ★ **Family and Community Engagement Self-Assessment:** This tool allows schools to assess their current family and community engagement climate
- ★ **Family Pledge:** Pledge to focus families on activities and expectations that will prepare their children for the transition to Kindergarten. Available in English and Spanish.
- ★ **Strengthening Families White Paper-** Strengthening Families is an approach to working with Families to prevent child abuse and neglect that builds upon the families strengths rather than focusing on their deficits.

- ★ **Who is Who in Your Child's School:** A customizable template that provides families with a description of personnel related and the role each individual plays in the school their child attends.