

Some Tips for a Smoother Transition

Transitioning your child into a new classroom can be a journey. Some parents may feel confident and eager for their child to move up, while others may feel uncomfortable, anxious, or fearful concerning how their child will meet the new challenges ahead of them. All of these reactions are normal. Remember that your child may also have feelings of sadness and resistance as he or she leaves a familiar setting. Letting children express how they feel is very important. Some may act fussy and whiney, and others could revert to habits you thought they had outgrown. Some children may seem to be unaffected by the change. Be patient and realize it may take a little while for your child to get used to a new classroom and teacher. Your child already has the tools to be successful and meet the challenges ahead, and by taking a few steps to prepare you can make the transition easier for everyone.

Here are a few suggestions to make the transition as smooth and stress-free as possible. Meet with the child's new teachers, and ask any questions you have. Young children always feel more comfortable if they know what to expect. Describe the classroom's routine in age-appropriate terms to your child. You can find each teacher's unique schedule inside the classroom. Bring a special item from home, such as a picture of your family or a blanket to use during quiet time. Parents and teachers need to work together, sharing unique information about your child so he or she will have the support and confidence necessary to move into a new environment.

Transitions are a time to celebrate your child's growth, so make this clear by encouraging and praising your child's new accomplishments. The most important thing to remember is to always communicate any concerns or questions you have with the staff and your child. Feel free to spend extra time in the new classroom as well. You and your child should feel welcome in the new setting. Happy transitioning!!