“It’s time to put your shoes on. We need to leave for school!” You’re in a hurry, but your child has all the time in the world.

What happens when you tell your child to finish one activity and start another?

You can use these ideas to help your child move from one activity to the next. Transitions can be easier at home and at school.

Tell your child before he needs to stop the activity.
Say what will happen next. “In five minutes, please put away the crayons. It will be time to go to grandma’s house.”

Draw a picture of what the clock will look like when it is time to stop. Or set a timer.

Use “when...then” sentences. “When you clean up your toys, then you will be able to play outside.”

Tell your child what to do during the transition.
“Before we read a story, you need to brush your teeth.”

Make a game of it. “Let’s see if we can get all the toys in the box before the song is over. Ready, set, go!”

Be ready to give your support and try new ideas.