



FOLLOW-UP TO: HELP ME MAKE A STRONG START! STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL KINDERGARTEN TRANSITIONS

Teacher Time Webinar, May 16, 2014

Thank you for participating in the May Teacher Time webinar. Please let us know how you used the webinar ideas in your classroom activities, songs, or with children. Email us at ncqtl@uw.edu and we will send you a token of our appreciation. If you did not get to see the most recent webinar, look for a recording of it at www.teachertime.org.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Young children have about a 50-50 chance of being successful in kindergarten. The following are key factors to help children be more successful:

- Stability and consistency between settings
- Teacher-child relationships
- Preparing children and families for the transition

There are significant differences between the preschool and kindergarten settings:

- Amount of free choice time
- Staff-child ratio
- Child or teacher directed activities
- Complexity of the social environment

What creates a successful adjustment? Educators building bridges between the preschool and kindergarten with:

- Information
- Relationships
- Alignment

Educators can build bridges and make connections when they:

- Foster children's familiarity with the new setting by establishing links between children and the school(s) where they will be going.
- Invite families and the new school to share information about expectations and school routines.
- Increase consistency across settings.
- Support peer relationships so children can transition with a friend.

Try It Out

- ✓ Find out what your program is doing to build relationships with kindergarten classrooms.
- ✓ Read stories, sing songs, and do activities related to the kindergarten transition.
- ✓ Take a field trip to a kindergarten classroom with the children and families in your class.
- ✓ Send home kindergarten transition stories for families to read together.
- ✓ Check out the resources listed in the next section for more ideas.

RESOURCES

Selected Children's Books about Kindergarten

- *A Place Called Kindergarten* by Jessica Harper
- *Countdown to Kindergarten* by Alison McGhee
- *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg
- *I Am Too Absolutely Small for School* by Lauren Child
- *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I come!* by Nancy Carlson
- *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I come/Prepare, kindergarten! Alla voy!* by Nancy Carlson
- *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate and Ashley Wolff
- *Off to Kindergarten* by Tony Johnston
- *Que Nervios! El Primer Dia de Escuela* by Julie Danneberg
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Un Beso en Mi Mano* by Audrey Penn
- *Welcome to Kindergarten* by Anne Rockwell

Adult Books

Pianta, R. C., & Kraft-Sayre, M. (2003). *Successful kindergarten transition: Your guide to connecting children, families, and schools*. Baltimore: Brookes.

Planning resources for support teams working across systems that include the child's perspective:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/center/transition>

Free materials, including an online interactive book for children: <http://www.readyfreddy.org/>

This resource from the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement will help staff better understand the impact of kindergarten transition on children and families, including examples of successful program practices: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/transitions-kindergarten.pdf>

For Teachers to Share with Families whose Children are Entering Kindergarten:

Joseph, G. E. (2011). *Introducing me*. Olympia, WA: The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS). Retrieved from http://www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS/pubdocs/WaKIDS_UW_2010PreliminaryReport.pdf

"Introducing Me!" is a 5-page handout included in the Preliminary Report of the WaKIDS Pilot project, starting on page 56.

Please note: The Transition to Kindergarten DVD mentioned during the show is for leaders who will be conducting Transition to Kindergarten Summits. It contains only two resources for teachers (calendar and list of children's books). You can make requests for electronic copies of these items from your ECE Specialist. Look for the calendar (Get Ready for Kindergarten! Activity Calendar for Teachers) in the near future on the first ECLKC website mentioned above.

RESILIENCY AND WELLNESS

Build and nurture your support network by:

- Finding role models and "supporters" who help you to be the best teacher you can be.
- Surrounding yourself with positive people and being careful of the negative influences around you (those who mainly focus on what is wrong).

Looking ahead

Don't miss our live rebroadcasts this summer! We'll have more time for your questions and interactions with the Teacher Time hosts. Look for us on a different day and time – **Monday, June 9, 3 pm (EDT)** and **July 14, 3 pm (EDT)**.



For more information, contact us at: NCQTL@UW.EDU or 877-731-0764

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