

PreK→K Florida Transition to Kindergarten

Recommendations for a Successful Transition to Kindergarten

Why is a successful transition to kindergarten important?

Transition activities for children and families associated with:

- Increased learning **gains in kindergarten**
- **Reduced stress** and higher ratings of **social-emotional competence** at beginning of kindergarten year
- Improved **academic growth** and increased **family involvement** over the kindergarten year

The following recommendations and related activities may be used as a guide for local stakeholders to plan for the transition to kindergarten that will prepare children and families for success in kindergarten and beyond.

1. Establish relationships with key stakeholders.

Key stakeholders in the transition to kindergarten may include, but are not limited to:

- Early learning coalitions
- School districts (charter school) (e.g., kindergarten, Title I and early childhood, and PreK ESE staff and teachers)
- Preschool children and their families
- Community partners (e.g., business owners, public libraries, non-profit organizations, health care providers)
- Private and public school providers

Resources

- [Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit Guide](#)

2. Identify Strengths and Areas of Improvement.

Meet with local stakeholders at least annually to identify and address areas for improvement in transitioning children from prekindergarten into kindergarten. When it applies, articulate and review existing plan.

Resources

- [Tuning Protocols](#)

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3. Adopt a best practices plan.

Create and adopt a best practices plan for transitioning prekindergarten students into kindergarten.

Look at each component of the best practice plan. Analyze the current practice in the Transition Plan.

- Provide opportunities for prekindergarten children and their families to visit schools in which they may be enrolled in kindergarten (e.g., Kindergarten Orientation, taking a tour of the school)
- Encourage kindergarten teachers to visit preschool classrooms and preschool teachers to visit a kindergarten classroom
- Work with preschools and other stakeholders to encourage school attendance by getting to know children and families, ensuring parents know the importance of attendance, offering a rich and engaging school experience and helping families overcome barriers to getting children to class.
- Work with preschool and other stakeholders to address low attendance due to barriers related to traspecific issues (e.g., transportation)

Resources

- [Transition Plan Form](#)
- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: Customizable flyer to provide the opportunity for preschool teachers visit the kindergarten teachers -[Join Us for Families-Visit Kindergarten Day!](#)
- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: Tip sheet to share with families - [Showing Up for Success: Attendance Tips](#)

4. Provide access to information.

The more educators, families and children know about the transition to kindergarten, the more at ease they will feel.

- Collaborate with community partners to share information about kindergarten registration with families of rising kindergarteners and local preschools
- Offer opportunities to participate in professional development focusing on developmentally appropriate practices (e.g., developmental progressions in content areas)
- Schedule time for preschool teachers and kindergarten teachers to interact
- Provide data to preschool families regarding their child's progress and encourage families to discuss the data with current preschool teacher and future kindergarten teacher (e.g., Parent-Teacher Conference)
- Encourage kindergarten teachers to use data from families to guide class planning
- Provide resources to help teachers improve their ability to use data to differentiate instruction and to understand the importance of data analysis
- Provide the community with access to the Transition to Kindergarten Plan

Resources

- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: Customizable flyers to communicate with the family for registration
[Don't Wait to Register for Kindergarten](#)
[Ready, Set, Go! It's Time to Register for Kindergarten ADA.docx](#)
[Have You Registered for Kindergarten?](#)
- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: [Social Media Calendar](#) to engage with the community and families in the transition to kindergarten process
- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: Tip sheet [How to Facilitate a Smooth Transition to Kindergarten](#) to guide educators in the transition process
- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: Tip sheets to share with families on transition to kindergarten topics
[How to Have a Smooth Transition to Kindergarten](#)

[9 Practical Tips to Help Your Child Transition to Kindergarten](#)
[What Your Child Needs to Know to Be Ready for Kindergarten](#)

- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: Sample Form [Parent-Teacher Conference Template](#) intended for the use of the preschool teacher to share information regarding the child’s progress in attaining the Early Learning and Developmental Standards with families. Families may share information with the kindergarten teacher

5. Establish and maintain supportive relationships.

Successful kindergarten transitions are a result of supporting relationships that are focused on children’s development—the relationship between schools, families, and preschool and kindergarten teachers and their classrooms. Consider the following: How are the partners working together to implement the plan with fidelity?

Resources

- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: Customizable letter to invite families [Kindergarten Orientation](#)
- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: Customizable Activity sheet for families to complete a scavenger hunt with their child as they learn more about their new school [My New School Scavenger Hunt](#)

6. Ensure alignment between environments.

Systems alignment work is looking at the commonalities and how those in each system can work together to support children in ways that will lead to their success. Consider the following: How are stakeholders working together to share data to measure effectiveness of the plan?

- Identify the academic and social expectations of the kindergarten environment and share with preschool families and teachers (e.g., Child Portfolio)
- Align expectations, standards, curriculum and instruction

Resources

- Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit: [Child Portfolio](#) – A portfolio intended for the use of the preschool teacher to share information regarding the child’s progress in attaining the Early Learning and Developmental Standards with families. Families may share information with the kindergarten teacher