

# Elementary to Middle School Transition Tips for Educators

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Parents and educators...need to establish a culture in which security and clarity of expectation are balanced with the encouragement of playfulness, inquisitiveness and self-reliance.

Guy Claxton

## Elementary Teachers Can:



Spot light the middle school! Take 5<sup>th</sup> graders and families on a tour or show videotape of school.



Facilitate class discussions about students' hopes and fears about middle school.



Share with middle school teachers any assistive technology, accommodations, and modifications used.

## Middle School Teachers Can:



Have 6<sup>th</sup> grade ambassadors go to elementary school and speak with 5<sup>th</sup> graders.



Talk with parents about best way to communicate: email, phone calls, notebook.



Evaluate if it would be helpful to take summer professional development classes to increase knowledge of specific disabilities and how to support students so they are successful learners.



Identify location where student can relax/regroup if needed.



Create a sense of community in the classroom: team building activities and give students opportunities to learn about and from each other.



Provide families information, support and opportunities so they can be equal, participating partners at IEP meetings and in school activities.



Use natural supports: Peers! Peers know each other's hopes and fears and can recognize each other's gifts and needs.



Make sure any needed assistive technology is ordered or alternative formats of textbooks.