

# Pre-School to Kindergarten Transition Tips for Educators

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Preparing children for the transition to kindergarten does not mean "getting them ready" by focusing on a checklist of skills, drilling on new rules, or retaining them in preschool for another year. Children need to be honored for wherever they are and given rich opportunities for further growth and development.

## Pre-school Teachers Can:



Collaborate with family and develop a student profile that describes child, likes, dislikes, interests, effective learning strategies, etc. Give profile to new teacher.



Have children discuss feelings, draw pictures, listen to stories, use dramatic play to prepare for changes.



Encourage children to ask questions about kindergarten.



Introduce families to others also transitioning, or to parents that have kindergarten children.



Attend spring meeting with family and staff at the new building. Share a picture of the whole child.

## Kindergarten Teachers Can:



Observe student at pre-school, discover how child learns best.



Mail postcard in late summer welcoming students to kindergarten.



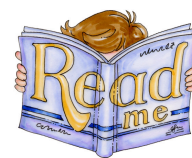
Visit family at their home. Learn child's strengths and interests. Begin relationship building with family.



Have an Open House before school starts. Students and families can see classroom, meet others.



Schedule small groups of students to come the first week of school. Check accessibility of classroom.



Write class story about school. Send home for parents to read to child.