

Guidelines for Successful, Smooth Transitions

1. Reduce the number of transitions.
2. When possible, do not transition the whole group at once. Begin the next event with children who are ready, while other children complete the earlier activity.
3. Eliminate waiting time by having one activity start as soon as another finishes or by having the end of one activity overlap with the beginning of another.
4. Provide a consistent yet flexible routine.
5. Provide time for transitions. Plan transitions just as you plan other parts of the day.
6. Take cues from children about the beginning and ends of events.
7. When needed, offer children choices during a transition: "You can come inside for lunch by walking like a robot or hopping like a rabbit."
8. Provide short, predictable transitional activities (e.g., use brief music and movement activities to capture children's attention). Use verbal and visual cues.
9. Predict for children what is coming next (e.g., give warnings, use pictorial daily routine, name the parts of the day).

Your ideas for transition activities: