

The Transition to Kindergarten Matters for School Success

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<http://www.hfrp.org>

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Harvard Family
Research Project

Transition to Kindergarten

- 3.5 million young learners and their families each year
- Kids: new environment, new friends, new rules
- Families: less communication with teachers, increased desire to understand school expectations, decisions about afterschool care
- Transition: process, not single event

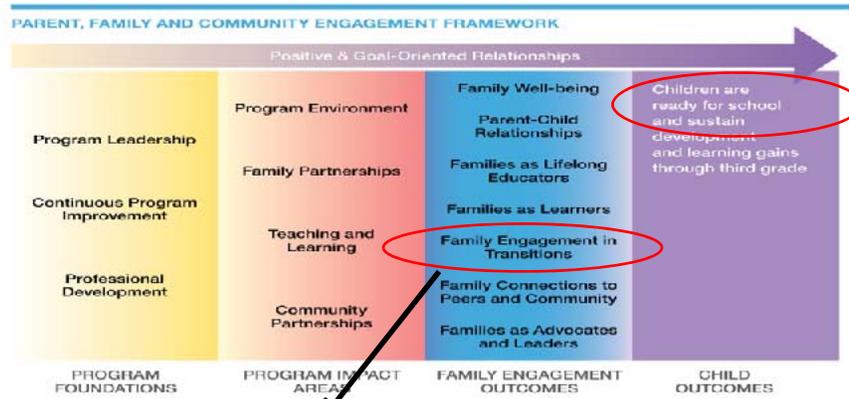
Outcomes of Transition Practices



Transition activities were most helpful for children from low-income families.

LoCasale-Crouch, J., Mashburn, A. J., Downer, J. T., & Pianta, R. C. (2008). Pre-kindergarten teachers' use of transition practices and children's adjustment to kindergarten. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 23, 124-139.

Head Start Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework



Successful Transitions



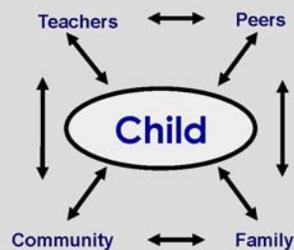
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/IMS/2011/pfce-framework.pdf>

Key Elements in System

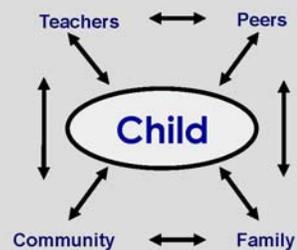
- Strong, on-board leadership
- Continuous assessment of what is and is not happening
- Professional development that involves all key stakeholders
- Family and community voice

School readiness and transition: When connections are the focus

Early Experiences



Kindergarten



Rimm-Kaufman, S. E., Pianta, R. C., & Cox, M. J. (2003). Teacher-rated family involvement and children's social and academic outcomes in kindergarten. *Early Education and Development, 14*(2), 179-198.

What Families Say

<u>Transition activity</u>	<u>% of families who found the experience helpful</u>
Took a tour of the school	100
Participated in elementary school-wide activities	100
Had child visit a kindergarten classroom	99
Talked with preschool staff about kindergarten	99
Attended a workshop for parents	98
Visited the kindergarten classroom	97
Talked with parents of child's new classmates	97
Attended an orientation to kindergarten	96
Met with the principal	95
Met with a kindergarten teacher	92

Pianta, R. C., Cox, M. J., Taylor, L., & Early, D. (1999). Kindergarten teachers' practices related to the transition to school: Results of a national survey. *The Elementary School Journal*, 100(1), 71–86.

What Communities Can Do

Information

Showcase after school programs as part of kindergarten visit

Organize through a community venue presentations from various school principals and teachers

Create a parent website with monthly activities for parents to do with their children to prepare for kindergarten

Develop public service announcement to remind families about kindergarten registration day

What Communities Can Do

Connection

Engage families as designers and decision makers

Organize workshops where teachers and parents of kindergarten children can connect with transitioning families

Maintain a file of parents that volunteer to share their child's transition experiences

Sponsor a fair to connect families to community service providers

Offer logistic support for kindergarten day visits

What Communities Can Do

Alignment

Create a free book distribution program with books related to kindergarten curriculum

Empower families to use child assessments and portfolios when meeting with the kindergarten teacher

Promote registration in early childhood screening programs

What Communities Can Do

Continuity in Kindergarten

Enhance family library experience

Use interactive homework

Expose families to organized activities

Summary

Transition activities support children's learning in kindergarten

Transition involves connections among children, families, preschools, schools and community resources

Information, relationships and alignment/continuity are key elements of a successful transition

Transition involves school and community support for children and families before, during and after the transition

<http://www.hfrp.org/>

Resource Guide for Early Childhood Transitions

<http://www.hfrp.org/early-childhood-education/publications-resources/resource-guide-for-early-childhood-transitions-annotated-bibliography>

Transition to Kindergarten Wiki

<http://transitionwiki.pbworks.com/w/page/45758665/Transition%20to%20Kindergarten%20Wiki>

Robert Pianta Talks about Kindergarten Transition

<http://www.hfrp.org/early-childhood-education/publications-resources/questions-answers-robert-pianta-talks-about-kindergarten-transition>

The Transition to Kindergarten: A Review of Research and Promising Practices

<http://www.hfrp.org/early-childhood-education/publications-resources/the-transition-to-kindergarten-a-review-of-current-research-and-promising-practices-to-involve-families>