



# Ready or Not, Here They Come!

(Teachers in Transition)

**"I don't know who transition is harder on ..... the child, the parent, or ME!"**

Does this sound familiar? Before the new school year begins, teachers everywhere are thinking about the upcoming challenges that accompany the process of transition.

## T ransition Challenges for the Child...

- New building
- Larger classroom
- Less adult interaction
- More structure
- Less free time
- Less outdoor play
- Difference in discipline



## T ransition Challenges for the Parent...

- Less opportunity for classroom involvement
- Feeling intimidated by teacher
- Less rapport initially
- More expensive
- Concern their child will not receive adequate attention



## T ransition Challenges for Teachers...

- Finding meaningful ways to involve ALL parents
- Feeling intimidated by the parent
- Keeping in contact with each family
- Identifying ways to provide meaningful activities with no cost.
- Time to individualized attention

**C**hildren, parents, and teachers all go through a period of adjustment and need added support and encouragement during this time.

Here are a few tips that can help make transition easier for everyone... even you!



**E**arly childhood program teacher...

- ☞ Make parents aware of rights, especially when their child is in need of special services.
- ☞ Help them connect with new services and support systems by knowing what's available at their local school.
- ☞ Share information about the school, round-up dates, contact persons, etc.
- ☞ Be an advocate for parents as partners in education, by providing them with tip sheets!

**K**indergarten teacher....

- ☞ Make a date to connect with the director's/teacher's in the surrounding preschools and introduce yourself and exchange information.
- ☞ Arrange for preschool parents & their child to come observe the your

classroom before the end of the year.

☞ Read information about the child. Some preschools keep portfolios on their children. These can be very helpful in familiarizing yourself with new students... but remember, children change rapidly over the summer, portfolios can be used as scaffold for building new experiences for new students.

☞ Provide **MEANINGFUL** opportunities for parent's to participate in their child's education...this may be quite different from what we typically expect. A good place to begin is to ask the family what they feel their strengths and challenges are in being involved in their child's education. Then go from there!

☞ Each family and child bring with them their own "bag" of, hopes, fears, concerns, and perceptions. Creating a caring environment for families is just as important as creating a caring environment for their children. Model perspective taking by leaving your "bag" aside and really listening to your new families!

For more information contact:



**The Center for Parent Involvement** (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at [www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi](http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi). The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Transition, Provider Tip Sheets, #4: Ready or Not, Here They Come!

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