

**Simple Strategies That You Can Use
to
Improve Transition Times During The Day**

Transition	Strategies You Can Use
Greetings and Good Byes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have your attendance board ready for the children; <input type="checkbox"/> Use children’s most familiar forms of saying hello in their culture, or homes; <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure that your classroom is clean and welcoming; <input type="checkbox"/> Keep their cubbies filled with ‘yesterday’s’ treasures. It gives them a sense of continuity and growth in the relationship that children develop with their schools; <input type="checkbox"/> Have pictures of the children with their pick-up person so they can be reminded that they always come back at the end of the day; <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure that their bags from home are completely packed so they can focus on saying goodbye and separating from you and the classroom without distractions; <input type="checkbox"/> Tell every child that you are so glad to see him/her; <input type="checkbox"/> Have a “safe spot” for every child’s belongings; <input type="checkbox"/> Help each child settle in and choose an activity to engage with; <input type="checkbox"/> Use greetings transition times to inquire about home events that might impact on the child’s day at school; <input type="checkbox"/> Use communication journals that travel between home and school;
Gatherings and Dismissals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use gestures to ask them to come closer to you and join the group as you gradually gather together; <input type="checkbox"/> Give the children clear instructions like, “when you hear your name, choose an area in the room where you would like to be” and start singing a song or a chant, or, “when you hear the color that you are wearing today, find a table to sit and eat snack”, or, “when you hear the first letter in your name, meet me at the door.” <input type="checkbox"/>

Moving Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Invite the children to join you on the ride somewhere. Use fantasy play to ask for help to pack a bag and “get on board” to go somewhere, asking for what they see on the way, or what transportation to use; be a train, or an airplane;
Clean Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Start picking up toys or materials at least 15 minutes before the actual clean up time starts. ❑ Announce a warning as children see some signs of cleaning up ❑ Assign a clear role/job to each child in your group; ❑ Notice positive behaviors and include them in your song; reward them with your attention;
Waiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ If you know ahead of time that you will need to wait for a little bit or a while (e.g.: when you are taking a fieldtrip somewhere and are caught in an unexpected traffic, bring along song cards with you so you can use your imagination more comfortably); ❑ Invite children to join you in a singing game; ❑ Ask them to choose a song; ❑ Give preference to songs that require gestures, or body motions.
Slowing Down/Preparing For Nap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Start signaling that is time to rest by turning the lights out, pulling shades down; ❑ While you are changing the environment to accommodate this transition, start singing slowing down songs.
Calling Attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Give preference to songs that use body sounds and use children’s names early in the song.