



BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Preschool
Educational Equity For All

September 2016

What Transition Ideas Can Be Used Between Activities at Preschool?

Transition is the period of time between activities, like when some students are waiting for others to finish or students are waiting to wash their hands for lunch. It is very easy for transition times to get out of hand, especially for preschool age children. There are many tricks that teachers use to make things go smoothly between preschool activities.

Ideas for Transition Between Activities

Here are a few general ideas:

- Music
- Exercise
- Reading
- Playing a simple game, like Simon Says
- Dismissing the students as each one answers a question
- Dim the lights and have them close their eyes while you help them "imagine" something for a minute or two.

When lining up, you might have the children wearing a certain color line up first, or select the ones whose name starts with a certain letter.

Teaching During Transition Time

Preschool children are taught many things in school other than the names of colors and their ABCs. They are taught to:

- Share
 - Wait in line
 - Listen to instructions
 - Handle transition time without disrupting others
- Many times children act out during transition times and the best way to deal with that is to give them something to do that they will enjoy:
- Make these transition times fun by doing activities like singing, chanting, clapping hands, etc.

See more ideas at:

<http://education.yourdictionary.com/for-teachers/what-transition-ideas-can-be-used-between-activities-at-preschool.html>

The Activity Idea Place

Welcome to the Activity Idea Place - the theme based lesson plan resource.

This website started in 1998 as part of an Early Childhood Education project called the file box. We host over 200 different [lesson plan themes](#) for toddler, preschool and kindergarten teachers.

<http://www.123child.com/>



WonderBaby.org
Perkins School for the Blind

Music & Development: Musical ways to engage developmentally disabled children

What are some things I can do with music to encourage my child's development?

Music is fun and easy. Get some kids' CDs, learn a few rhymes, and maybe invest in a few simple instruments and you're ready to go!

- Teach your child about different textures.
- Improve fine motor skills.
- Use your breath.
- Match objects with songs.
- Do the hand movements together.
- Act out the words.
- Play music games.
- Use music to motivate.
- Encourage communication.
- Walk to the beat.
- Memorize.

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/music-development>



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EQUITY FOR ALL
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



<http://fun-a-day.com/centers-a-basic-introduction/>

Young children learn so much during center time — social interaction with both peers and adults, self-regulation of behavior, language development, time management, tons of age-appropriate academics, trying new things in a safe environment, etc.

Environmental Support: Altering the physical and social environment and the timing of activities to promote a child's participation, engagement, and learning. If a child—
Has difficulty putting toys and equipment away during clean up—use pictures or symbols on shelves and containers. Make clean up a matching game.

Has difficulty playing near peers—plan cooperative small group activities with engaging and highly motivating materials so that the child is in proximity with peers while engaging in fun activities such as creating murals and building cooperative block structures.

Has no play partners—build friendships by seating the same peer next to the child every day at a planned activity such as small group or circle time.

Does not participate in learning centers during free choice time—create a picture schedule for the child. The picture schedule can have pictures or symbols representing the various learning centers organized in a certain order; 1. art, 2. dramatic play, 3. blocks The child should be taught to refer to her schedule each time she finishes one activity and goes onto the next. She can also refer to her schedule when it is time for her to join an adult in a center in order to learn how to play there.

Has difficulty making transitions—just before the transition provide the child with a picture or symbol representing the area or activity that the child should go to next. The child could even take the picture or symbol card with him to the next area.

Quickly finishes with an activity and then has difficulty waiting for the next activity— open one or two quiet centers (such as the book area or computer) after the activity and allow her to leave the activity and go to one of the open quiet areas.

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/Disabilities/Staff%20Support%20and%20Supervision/Support%20and%20Supervision%20for%20Staff%20Serving%20Children%20with%20Disabilities/disabl_art_00001_060205.html

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2015/05/19/feds-inclusion-preschools/20318/>

<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/preschool.disabilities.html>

<http://www.center4atexcellence.com/documents/studentswithspecialneedsinthepreschoolclassroom1.pdf>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Online Professional Development Courses

ChildCare Education Institute offers online professional development courses that meet state training requirements and are awarded **IACET Continuing Education Units (CEUs)**. Courses are written by **early childhood experts**, including courses by authors **Rae Pica** and **Dr. Pam Schiller**.

Over 100 **English and Spanish** courses cover topics pertinent to the child care industry, including:

- Administration and Management
- Child Development
- Classroom Management
- Cognitive Development
- Curriculum
- Early Literacy
- Environments and Curriculum
- Experienced Staff
- Family and Parenting
- First Year Teachers
- Guidance and Discipline
- Health and Safety
- Inclusion and Special Needs
- Infant and Toddler Care
- Nutrition and Food Service
- Orientation
- Preschool Care
- Professional Development
- School Age Care
- Social and Emotional Development
- The Diverse Classroom

View the [child care training course catalog](#) for a complete list of current online courses.

<https://www.cceionline.com/index.cfm?id=47>