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"A Smart Start to a Successful Future"

Smooth Transitions In Child Care

www.childcarelounge.com
by [Cathy Abraham](#)

As you know, transition times are usually the most difficult and stressful parts of the day in child care. A group of children are being asked to shift from one activity to another, and move from one task to another in a relatively short period of time. This lends itself to much movement - and for some children - opportunity! Some children have a particularly difficult time and react to any kind of confusion, lack of structure &/or chaos. You should plan on transition times requiring all of your attention and focus - this would not be the appropriate time to gather the materials necessary for the next art or cooking project.

Smooth Transitions...

- Establish much better "discipline" in your classroom, preventing many behavior problems.
- Allow for more time for educational activities, due to less waiting time.
- Help children to respect you and feel secure, knowing that you are capable and competent, and the classroom is not out of control.

Here are some general thoughts on how to make transition times easier:

- View transition times as opportunities for learning - Transitions hold many opportunities for skill-building, problem-solving, listening, following directions, and cooperation.
- Make transitions fun - A good Teacher can make wearing two mismatched mittens sound like the most fun and exciting thing in the world just by facial expressions and tone of voice. Utilize your face and voice as teaching

tools.

- One adult should stay with the majority of the children who are ready (or not ready) and the other staff member should be facilitating the rest of the group. Strategically positioning yourself is an invaluable tool during transitions. Do not penalize the children who are ready and doing what they should be doing. Don't let one child hold up the rest of the class because he won't put on his coat - that's giving that child a great deal of power.
- Eliminate 'Lining Up' and minimize waiting. - Lining up lends itself to children being in each others' body space. This often leads to pushing, shoving, kicking and whining. Movement in small groups is preferable - and much more manageable. Stagger small groups of children. If you *must* line-up, or there is an unexpected wait for the next activity (ex. lunch is late), use finger plays, songs and games that require no props. Think about how difficult it is for us (as adults) to wait in a grocery store line for more than a couple of minutes. Multiply that by ten! A good Teacher has a repertoire of fun little games and activities they can 'pull out of a hat' at any given moment, and also utilizes teachable moments to talk and process the child's experiences of the day, while encouraging cognitive development.
- Give children adequate time to prepare for transitions. You like to know what is coming next in your day, don't you? Do you like it when you're right in the middle of something and someone demands that you stop *right now* and do something else? We need to be respectful of children and their choices. They need to mentally prepare for changes, and feel that they have some control within their environment and their day. Predictable cues can also be an effective and helpful tool.

Children respond to structure and routines, and consistency enables them to feel safe, secure, and more in control and competent.

- Choose children first who are not engaged in any activity, (or who need some redirection), to start moving into that next phase of the day.
- Utilize positive reinforcement as a tool. Children generally strive to please. Reward appropriate behavior with recognition, praise and positive reinforcement. Don't fall into the "Good Job" pitfall - the more specific and concrete your comments are, the more it indicates that you are *really* looking and paying attention, and are sincere.

- Try to stay away from always relying on external rewards like stickers. - This can often backfire, and you may have children who will only do what is expected if they get something in return.

- Know upon whom you need to keep an extra close eye. Certain children predictably 'lose it' during transition times, or take advantage of the fact that your focus is fragmented. You will want to shadow these children closely - again using positive reinforcement when they display appropriate behaviors.

- Since we know transition times are hectic, plan ahead and have all necessary materials at hand. You *know* the room 'goes up' for grabs' during a transition

time if someone has to leave to go get another spoon or a box of Kleenex!

- Some children need *specific* directions comprised of only one or two commands at a time. Some children cannot comprehend or process multiple directions given all at one time. Think about this the next time you get that child who just stares at you, whom you think is just being disobedient.

- Model and demonstrate appropriate behaviors. Do not assume the children truly know what is expected. Be patient with children new to child care, they probably know nothing about 'snack time', 'group time', etc. and/or many of the expectations.

- Know your children. Know what they like and what they respond to, what works, and what doesn't.

Ideas for Waiting Times

- Songs and Finger plays
- Review of the morning or previous day; Talk about things together.
- Have children wiggle specific body parts
- Have children move like, or pretend to be specific animals or things
- Read or tell a story, or have children look at books
- Identify things in the room that start with certain letters; Look for shapes, colors, numbers, etc. within the environment
- Memory games or clapping games
- "Simon Says"
- Exercising or Stretching Activities
- Use puppets to give directions, reinforce concepts, or just be silly
- "Freeze!" - no one can move - "We're all frozen!"
- "Get your wiggles out!" - Have children wiggle different parts of their bodies

Remember to tie in your curriculum theme whenever possible to expand upon and enhance the children's learning experiences. Keep it fun and exciting and you'll eliminate many behavior problems.



BUCKLE UP PROGRAM: Need your car seat checked or replaced? Call for an appointment at 910-592-9399 for more information!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Helps parents with the cost of childcare, parents must be working more than 20 hours a week or going to school FT. Call for more information!

PARENTS AS TEACHERS: Targets children pre-natal to 5 yrs. old. Call Raquel Cervantes for more information.

NCPReK Program Preschool program for qualifying 4 year olds. For more information call Veronica Ramos at 910-592-9399

Winter Snowflake Craft

Create a translucent snowflake to decorate windows, use as a Christmas tree ornament, or give as a gift. This craft satisfies the child's need to design something unique & helps develop fine motor skills.

Materials Needed:

- White Glue
- Wax paper
- Glitter
- Pipe cleaners or string



Let's Begin:

1. Place the wax paper on a table. You can pretrace the design or let children use their imaginations to create their own snowflakes.
2. Help children trace their line with a thick amount of glue.
3. Sprinkle glitter and let set overnight.
4. The snowflake should be dry enough to lift off the wax paper and hang on a string or pipe cleaner to decorate a Christmas tree or hang by a window.
5. Furthermore, this project is fun and easy and creates a great "take-home" gift around the holidays!

<http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/>



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Have youngsters stand to take part in this cute action rhyme. Lead children in reciting the rhyme five times, changing the number and holding the corresponding number of fingers each time.
(Five) little penguins standing in a row.
(Hold up five fingers.)
(Five) little penguins standing in the snow.
Brrr, it's cold! I cannot stay!
(Hug self and shiver.)
And one little penguin waddled away. (Waddle in place.)
Mailbox Magazine, Jan. 2009



Workshop Fee Policy: Providers must register and pay for the workshop at the same time. Just calling in and asking that your name be on the list will not be considered as registered until the fee has been paid. Fees are non-refundable and may only be transferred if the workshop is cancelled. We can no longer transfer fees from one session to another.

Saturday, January 11 2020

Playground Safety Training: This training is a state required training for all centers and home day cares. It is a four hour course.	Kindra Smith	9:00am-12:30pm
Building Communication during Meals and Snacks: This training will focus on appropriate interactions teachers should be having with children during meals and snacks to help build children's communication skills	Elizabeth Marquez	9:00-11:00AM

Tuesday February 11 2020

Using Transitions to Help Manage Classroom Behaviors: This training will focus on the importance of having a good schedule and routines to help children manage behavior	Elizabeth Marquez	6:30p-8:30p
Keeping It Clean with a Focus on Sanitation: This training will talk about the requirements for sanitation and strategies to use in the classroom to help maintain cleanliness	Donna Jackson	6:30p-8:30p

Tuesday March 17 2020

Math and Science in the Classroom: This training will focus on the importance of having strong math and science centers in the classroom and how to incorporate developmentally appropriate math and science activities into your lesson plans.	Nicole Wilson	6:30p-8:30p
ITERS Overview: This training will focus on what is observed during an ITERS assessment and how teachers can use the assessment tool to set up their classroom environment.	Donna Jackson	6:30p-8:30p
Make It Take It for Spring: This workshop will focus on developmentally appropriate activities you can offer in your classroom for toddlers and for preschool age children.	Elizabeth Marquez	6:30p-8:30p

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Call our office for details on how to get your child enrolled to receive a new book every month!



visit us on
Facebook



NEW HOURS!!! The Partnership for Children is open Monday—Thursday 8:00am-5:00pm. We will be closed to the public on Fridays. For your convenience, we are open one Saturday each month 8:00am-12:00pm. A variety of workshops will be provided on these Saturdays. The Resource Center will also be available. Call for dates and more information.