Creating a Multi-Tiered System of Transition Support

➢ Unzip the front pocket of backpack
➢ Reach in and take out the 3 cards
➢ Read the card to your group
➢ Discuss as a group:
  ○ What socio-economic barrier(s) or hidden obstacles does this child experience? (poverty, divorce, abuse, etc.)
  ○ What challenges could these create that might impact school success? (difficulty concentrating, disruptive behaviors, attention seeking, etc.)
➢ Repeat with each remaining card
Kindergarten

Here we come!

Transition Challenges

- Academic Delays
- Emotional Outbursts
- Signs of Stress
- Anxiety
- Low Self-Esteem
- Display Attention Seeking Behaviors
- Difficulty Making Friends

Multilayered System for Transition Support

Pre-K
Reaching Back

K
Reaching Forward

Intensity of Information

Family
Community
School

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Barriers in the Backpack

Adverse Childhood Experiences
https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/acestudy/about.html

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**Multi-Tiered Transition Support**

### Varied Levels of Intensity

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**INTENSITY OF INFORMATION**

Balance is the Key!

- School readiness involves more than just children.
- School readiness, in the broadest sense, is about children, families, early environments, schools, and communities.
- Children are not innately “ready” or “not ready” for school.
- Their skills and development are strongly influenced by their families and through their interactions with other people and environments before coming to school.

(Maxwell & Clifford 2004)

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**School - Community**

**Educate, Communicate & Collaborate**

- **Transfer Meetings**
  - Pre-K teachers meet with kindergarten teachers to transfer student folders/data & discuss possible academic, behavior or social concerns

- **Vertical Planning**
  - Pre-K & K teachers meet to exchange ideas to support kindergarten readiness

- **Readiness Screeners**
  - Pre-K/childcare teachers
    - out seek information regarding assessment items on readiness screeners to increase student performance

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**Pre-K Reaching Back**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**School - Community**

**Educate, Communicate & Collaborate**

- **Pre-K Reaching Back**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**School-Based Pre-K teachers**
- Home Daycare Providers
- Stay-at-Home Parents

**Private Pre-K Programs**
- Community Programs
- Grandparents

**Transition Barriers & Obstacles**

- Conduct a “Backpack Experience” to make a personal & emotional connection
- Provide training on ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
- Share current statistics specific to the community
- Brainstorm ideas & community partnerships to address needs

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**School - Community**
*Educate, Communicate & Collaborate*

**Pre-K Reaching Back**

- **Data-Based Academic Needs**
  - Communicate academic needs of rising kindergartners identified through data analysis & notable trends over time
  - Provide explicit professional development to deepen understanding of key readiness skills that impact student success in literacy and math
  - Share teaching strategies & resources to incorporate with current learning routines and practices used with Pre-K

- **Social Emotional Learning**
  - Communicate social & emotional needs of rising kindergartners identified through data analysis & notable trends over time
  - Provide professional development to deepen understanding of how to help children:
    - Manage Emotions
    - Set and achieve positive goals,
    - Feel and show empathy for others,
    - Establish & maintain positive relationships
    - Make responsible decisions

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**Registration & Screening Announcements**

- **Posters & Flyers**
  - Hang posters & flyers at the school, recreational centers, local stores, churches etc.

- **Letters**
  - Send letters home with current students

- **Marquees**
  - Post dates on school & community marquee

- **Social Media**
  - Advertise registration and screening dates on facebook, instagram, twitter, etc.

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**Registration & Screening Announcements**

- **Include Video Links**
  - Add video links to flyers that:
    - Provide explanation of where to go or contact information to easily locate needed documents (i.e. birth certificate/shot records)
    - Highlight K teachers to share personal facts & readiness tips
    - Interview current families and share helpful tips - getting ready/ bedtime routines etc.

- **Partner with Local Restaurants**
  - Provide printed flyers to:
    - Include in “To-Go” bags
    - Line food trays
    - Tape inside pizza boxes
**Meet & Greet Family Events**

**Host a Playdate**
Families are invited to a playdate at the school to:
- Meet the principal and new teachers
- Interact in a more casual, social setting
- Get to know other parents & families
- Help children foster new friendships
- Play on the playground or with equipment in the gym
- Enjoy light refreshments

**Popsicles & Playground**

**Meet & Greet Family Events**

**Anytime, Anywhere Learning Cards**
Each card allows parents to make learning happen anytime and anywhere through meaningful conversations with their child:
- **In My Book** supports reading readiness skills during read-aloud time at home
- **Out & About** focuses on developing critical thinking skills through questions and conversations
- **TV Time** allows parents to turn a cartoon or favorite TV show into an opportunity to improve comprehension skills

**HIGH**

**Meet & Greet Family Events**

**Link Playdate to Learning**
While families enjoy a refreshing snack, take a few minutes to share learning strategies that can be incorporated anytime and anywhere using:
- **Anytime, Anywhere Learning Cards**
- **TAG...You’re It!** - Yearlong Family Engagement Initiative

**TAG...You’re It!**
This yearlong family engagement initiative enables families to easily practice kindergarten readiness skills throughout daily routines:

**Targeted Skills Include:**
- Color Identification & Classification
- Print & Alphabet Awareness
- Rhyme Identification & Production
- Sequencing & Retell
- Identification of Key Details
- Compare & Contrast and Measurement (STEM)
- Shape Identification, Classification & Creation
- Counting & Cardinality and Operations & Algebraic Thinking

**HIGH**

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Tour the School

Offer School Tours
Parents and children go on a guided tour of the school to:
- Visit classrooms
- Locate support classes and other rooms (cafeteria, media center, gym, computer lab, etc.)
- Meet the teachers
- Receive general school information

Tour the School

Link School Tour to Learning
Pre-K families “race” around the school in friendly competition to be the first to cross the finish line with this ready-to-go family fun event.

- Orient families to the new school setting
- Allows families to meet teachers in a non-threatening atmosphere
- Exposes parents & children to academic expectations and readiness skills
- Provides a parent handout that helps family target readiness skills at home

Tour the School

Go on Home Visits
Teachers make home visits to meet each family of incoming Pre-K students to:
- Fosters initial bond between teacher and child
- Builds relationship between teacher and family members
- Gains basic information about child
- Shares general school information & complete necessary forms
- Helps families access needed resources
- Shares social, emotional, and behavioral transition strategies

Home Visits
**Home Visits**

Link Home Visit to Learning
During home visit teachers take a few minutes to share and model reading readiness parents can use at home:

Benjamin Bradley Benton
This children’s book:
- Incorporates reading readiness strategies & embedded icons to support families with developing early literacy skills while reading aloud at home
- Includes additional strategies to enhance number sense and mathematical thinking

**Orientations**

Offer Kindergarten Orientation
Families are invited to attend an orientation session that provides an overview of the kindergarten program:
- Families are introduced to school staff & kindergarten teachers
- Parents receive information (arrival & dismissal, buses, schedules, etc.)
- Children visit classrooms & participate in several introductory kindergarten activities

Link Kindergarten Orientation to Learning
While families learn general information, take a time to share reading readiness strategies that can be incorporated into any story read at home:
- Into the Tub Children’s Book
  Incorporates reading readiness strategies and embedded icons to guide families to effectively implement them each time they read aloud
- Storytime Strategies Card
  Provides a cost effective way to teach the same strategies to parents with any book
# Multi-Tiered System of Transition Support

## “NEW” Transition Practices

**Targeted Students**
- Reaching Back (Pre-K)
- Reaching Forward (K)

**Intensity of Information**
- Low Intensity
- High Intensity

### Description

- **School Staff**
- **Community**
- **Family**

### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“NEW” Transition Practices</th>
<th>Targeted Audience</th>
<th>Targeted Students</th>
<th>Intensity of Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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**Advocating for effective and transformative family engagement.**