

# ***The Power of Transitions; It's Just Good Teaching***

January 29, 2013

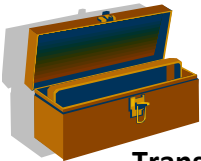
## **The “WH” of Transitions:**

- **What** are Transitions? – *“a process or period in which something undergoes a change ... and passes from one activity to another”* (Encarta Dictionary).
- **Why** use Transitions? – Transitions can meld one activity to another and develop social emotional and other developmental skills in children.
- **When** should you do Transitions? – Transitions can be done within activities for example, singing a song or chanting a finger play before or after reading a story. Another example is when moving from one scheduled activity to another.
- **Where** can Transitions occur? – Transitions can occur inside and outside of the classroom.

## **Planning for Transitions**

Transitions should be:

- Intentional
- Interesting
- Age appropriate
- Engaging
- Structured but also open-ended



**Transition Tips Tool Box:** Transitions can be done during all parts of the day and can be scaffold to meet the diverse learning needs of the children.

There are many possibilities! Here are a few examples:

- 1) Transition from work-time to circle - Play a song at the start of clean up time.
- 2) Transition to reading a storybook – Place props that represent items from the story in a box or bag. Ask children to make a prediction or guess what is in the box. Take out items one a time and talk about each one and begin to make connections to the story.
- 3) Transition from morning meeting- Children move from circle area like a favorite animal to the sink to wash hands.
- 4) Transition to sit down – Have children touch their head, shoulders, knees, toes, and then sit down.

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### **Movement Transition:**

"This is what I can do \_\_\_\_ (show an action and have the children mirror/ imitate the action), see if you can do it too.

This is what I can do \_\_\_\_\_ (repeat the action and encourage children to follow along)

Now, I pass it on to you! (Choose a child to lead an action/motor movement.)"

### **Calming Transitions:**

Using an interesting prop or movement; children sit in a circle.

Instructions for teacher: I am going to pick up a feather, feel it, and quietly and silently pass it on to the next person to hold. Let's see how quiet and gently we can pass the feather!

### **Thinking Time Transitions:**

"How many ways can you \_\_\_\_?" (dance around, move like an animal, etc.)

"How many red things do you see?"

### **Action Break Transitions:**

"I'm a Little Popcorn"

I'm a little popcorn in a pot.

Heat me up and watch me pop.

When I get all fat and white, I'm done.

Popping corn is lots of fun! Pop!

Teacher says, "Freeze, Popcorn" and children 'stop' moving.



### **References:**

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