

Managing Group Transitions

Use this Tip Sheet to plan group transitions from outside to inside and from free play to a structured activity.

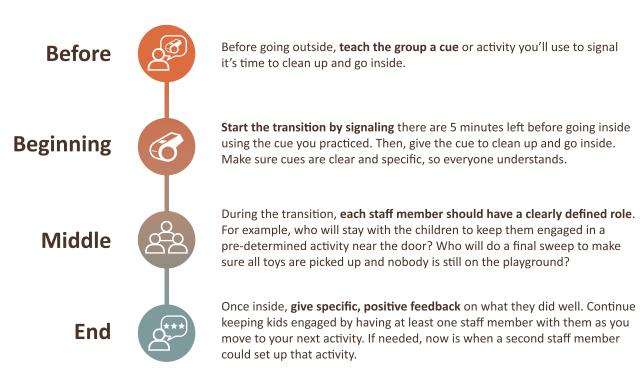
Planning for Success

Effective transitions are designed intentionally, just like any other activity. This outline uses before, beginning, middle, and end phases to detail how to move a group from one activity to another while keeping children engaged and on task.



For ideas on songs or games to use in transitions, check out the **Transition Activities Tip Sheet**







Free Play to Structured Activity



Before



Before free time starts, practice a cue you will use when it's time to clean up and prepare for what's next.

Beginning



Using cues you practiced, give a 5-minute clean-up cue, followed by the signal to start cleaning up.

Middle



While kids are cleaning up, one caregiver will be in charge of final clean-up of free play area, while another caregiver will run the transition activity to keep kids focused while moving to the next part of the schedule.

End



Now that the group is ready for the next part of the day, give specific praise on what went well during the transition. This is also when a designated staff member should set up the next activity, if necessary.

Accommodations.

The whole group benefits when children with specific needs have appropriate accommodations built into transitions. Try assigning children helper roles or job titles, like Clipboard Holder or Lego Supervisor, to offer extra structure during transitions and support children who need more direction during busy times. Think of creative ways to work existing individual supports into your transition plans, too!



Giving more cues can help children who need more structure or groups that struggle with transitions.

For example, signal when there are 30 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes, and 2 minutes left.

