

### **Good morning to you! (Transitioning into school)**

- Involve the child in a job ("documenting" attendance by moving name or symbol from one place to another, taking care of a special job, taking care of a special stuffed animal)
- Child signs in next to parent sign- in sheet
- Parent sends picture of family, pet etc.
- Parent sends audio tape of parent reading child's favorite story along with the book
- Parent sends double prints of photos for you to make books out of
- Push your parent out the door

### **Okay, everybody. Please calm down! (Activities to settle children)**

- Use shower curtain, carpet squares, tape etc. to help children know where they should sit
- Spread a unique blanket or towel for children to sit on
- Pillow places (let each child make a pillow for circle time, put it at their spot, let them hold it during circle time)
- Use musical buttons
- Roll sponge ball to child as you sing a song like "Catch the Ball" to the tune of "Where is Thumbkin?"
- Use a puppet to welcome them to the activity (Your puppet may be very shy and need it very quiet!)
- Sing "Put your Bottom on the Rug"

### **While you wait/Uh-oh! We finished early. (Waiting/Extension Activities)**

- Story starters on a ring
- Busy boxes (baby wipe boxes, pizza boxes, check book boxes etc.)
- Empty bottles (water, hand sanitizer etc.) with interesting things inside (objects floating in corn syrup, water and oil, mineral oil and food coloring, pictures of children, rice, beans etc.) HOT GLUE LID ON!
- Fill bottles with rice and metal objects and give child a magnet wand to use with the bottle
- Tins with magnetic objects inside
- Stove burner covers or cookie sheets with magnets
- Cookie sheet with song magnets – the children choose the songs you sing while you wait
- Deck of cards with songs on cards for children to choose from
- Make tongue depressor puzzles using shapes, pictures or patterns.
- Make file folder games (matching games with stickers or pictures cut in half; peek hole games)
- *Mitch the Fish* and *Baa Baa Black Sheep* folder songs
- Practice tongue and mouth noises
- Give a final cue (Use the same song or finger play each time so the children learn the cue. Ex. *Open Them, Shut Them.*)
- Individual tubs of playdough (butter dish size) with small cookie cutters inside
- Clothespin games
- Use a glove puppet or storytelling mitten to tell the children a story
- Make a poster with many different pictures on it and play "I Spy" to find things on the poster
- Play "What's under the bowl?" Use three to five bowls, hide object under one while children close their eyes, they guess which bowl the object is hidden under)
- Play "What's missing?" with flannel board pieces
- Spin a story. Cover a tubular container (Pringles, oatmeal) with pictures to look at and use to create stories

### **Got the wiggles? (Activities to get the wiggles out)**

- Clap, stomp or tap out audio patterns for children to copy
- Sing movement songs (*'Twas Just a Little Bit of Luck, Row Your Boat, Head and Shoulders*)
- Stretch and wiggle with beanbags (balance on your knee, on your head, toss and catch)
- Make a game with large dice (milk carton halves – washed, stuffed and covered)
- Use plastic eggs filled with movement directions (touch your toes 3x's) – let children pick eggs

- Stretch and move with hula hoops, scarves, or ribbons
- Stretch and move with “stretchies”
- Use rhythm instruments to move and stretch
- Sing “Walking, walking/hop,hop,hop/running, running, running/Now we stop”
- Go on a Bear Hunt

### **It’s time to go to... (Moving the group)**

- Follow, follow, follow
- Pretend to be animals, some form of transportation, sneaky, invisible etc.

### **May I have your attention, please? (Attention- grabbers)**

- Puppets
- Nest boxes and work down to a clue about the coming activity
- Make up riddles and give clues for children to guess the next activity
- Decorate a bag or box and regularly use it with different props inside (vary according to theme or activity)
- Sing songs (“*Ten Little Birds in One Big Tree*”)

### **But I didn’t play with that...(Clean-up time games)**

- Sing a “Clean-up song”
- Follow the children’s play interests and tie these to clean up
- Have a “race” to see who can clean the most quickly
- Give each child a bag or basket to fill and then have each child put away the contents of his/her bag
- Play music; children clean while the music is playing and then have to freeze when the music stops
- Set up a “fire brigade” and pass the toys to the shelf

### **You’re free to go to... (Dismissal from the group)**

Dismiss the children...

- According to: physical or clothing characteristics, their likes or dislikes
- By asking them to answer a question or make a rhyme
- By the initial letter of their name or their telephone number
- By letting them have a hug from or say good-bye to a special puppet
- By giving them a turn with a special object (EX. The flashlight game)
- Have them get in a ball and you come pat or gently touch them
- Lay out cards with each child’s name or initial letter, have child flip card to dismiss a child – before leaving, that child turns over next card
- Draw names from sack paper jellybeans, potatoes etc. depending on theme
- Use 2 play telephones and call the child when it is his/her turn to leave; discuss where child will go
- Let child wear special glasses to “look around the room” and tell you where he/she will go to play
- Use a wand to dismiss...(EX. Ibbity, bibbity, boo, spell child’s name, can go, too!”)
- Make the children think by asking them questions like, “If your legs were glued together, how would you get to the snack table?” Let them come up with creative ways to move
- Give them “clues” about how you want them to move. (EX. “I’m thinking of an animal that...”)

#### **References:**

Earlychildhood.com articles: “Transition Time Tricks” by Jean Feldman and “Terrific Transitions for the Preschool Classroom” by Penny Warner

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Hohmann, M., and Weikart, D.(1995). *Educating Young Children*. Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press