



Transition Time Tricks

Stand up! Sit down! Clean up! Calm down! Hurry up! WAIT! Too many transitions in the day can be frustrating for children as well as teachers. With careful planning and a few "tricks," your day can move more smoothly and many behavior problems can be avoided. Children love music; they love to move and they love surprises.

Circle Time

By following the same schedule every day, children learn what to expect and program in certain behaviors. 'Indicator' songs are an effective way to let children know when they are about to begin a new activity.

Clean Up

Clean up is another time during the day that can be a chore for children and teachers. Use a minute timer to help children bring closure to their activities. Set the timer for five minutes, then explain that you will have a "whisper" clean up when it goes off. Model what you want children to do, and encourage them to help you. "Let's see. Where does this car belong?" Give choices to those children who are not cooperating. For example, "Fran, do you want to put away the puzzles or the books?"

Line Up

Little ones don't like to wait, and they don't like lines, so avoid them whenever possible. However, when you do need to line up, play pretend games. For example, "Let's be a train. Everybody put their hands on the person's shoulders in front of them. What kind of car are you on the train? Choo-choo, here we go." Challenge children to be "as quiet as snowflakes," to "tiptoe like elves," to "move in slow motion."

Attention Getters

Try blowing bubbles, whistling, playing a music box or using a magic sign to focus children's attention. If the room is loud say, "If you can hear my voice clap three times and look at me." Lower your voice each time until all of the children are participating.

In Between Times

Entertain children while they're waiting to begin a new activity by telling them a story, singing a song, or saying a rhyme. You'll be stimulating their brains and developing reading readiness skills!

Celebrate

"Accentuate the positive" with children and encourage them frequently in the day by having them "hug themselves" or pat themselves on the back." Demonstrate how to give themselves a "silent cheer" (put your hands in the air and wiggle fingers), clap like a clam (make pincers with fingers and open and shut), applaud like seals (extend arms straight in front of you and clap), or clap like fleas (tap index fingers together).

Repetition and Recall

A study of brain-based learning emphasizes the importance of reviewing activities with children. After reading a story, playing a game, or working in learning centers, take a bean bag and toss it to children. As they catch it, ask them to describe what they did or learned. Before children go home, have them recall what they enjoyed most at school.

A Magic Wand

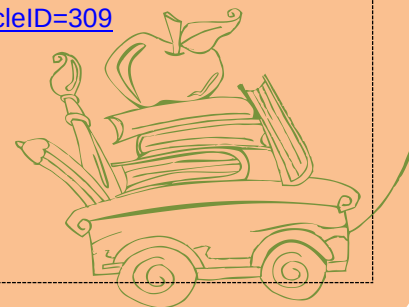
Being a good teacher is a bit like being a magician-you always have to keep a few "tricks" up your sleeve. Now all you need is a magic wand! So get a wooden dowel rod or pencil and cover it with aluminum foil. Dip one end in glue, then roll the glue end in glitter. Taa daa-you have a magic wand! Wave the wand over the children before a story so they will be quiet; tap them gently on the shoulder to dismiss them to go to a learning center; or "Zap!" them with your magic wand to turn them into bunnies, astronauts, butterflies, or bees.

For the complete article with songs, visit:

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http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/earlychildhood/article_view.aspx?ArticleID=309



Recipe Corner

Cornucopia Snacks



Ingredients:

- Bugles original flavor snacks
- Trix cereal
- white icing (peanut butter or frozen yogurt for a healthier option)

Instructions

1. Slightly over-stuff each Bugle with white icing
2. Place various colors of Trix cereal on icing

The result should look like a miniature cornucopia of fruit!

CCS is currently enrolling.....please have any of your families contact our office to see if they qualify. Our income guidelines have been raised so someone who thinks they don't qualify just might. (325) 653-2321
Thank you, Julie Vigil



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Flower cards for Mom

Directions

1. Cut out 9 circles in different colors – 3 circles in every size
2. Glue them together- one on top each other
3. Roll a piece of paper lengthwise to make the stalk.
4. Use sticky tape to attach each flower to its stalk. Staple together to make a bouquet that can be inserted in 'the pocket'.
5. Fold a sheet of paper in two to make the card. Use another piece of paper to make the 'pocket' and insert the flower bouquet.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 1st Annual Concho Valley Child and Youth Conference! We appreciate all the feedback, as they will assist us in the planning process for next year's Conference, we hope to see you there!!

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