

Transition Tricks

Georgia's Pre-K

Transitions are periods of time during the day where teachers are guiding children through changes in the daily schedule. It can be the period of time waiting for children to arrive in the morning, gathering for circle time, cleaning up, waiting to wash hands, settling down for rest, etc. Smooth transitions promote positive classroom management. There is no one magical way to carry out transition time. Through play with language, songs, finger plays and rhymes children are developing skills in phonemic awareness in a fun filled way! Try experimenting with some of the following suggestions.

Howdy Neighbor

Howdy neighbor!
(make a big waving motion)
What do you say?
(shake hands with each other)
It's going to be
A beautiful day.
(make circle in front of body with arms)
So clap your hands,
(clap your hands)
And stomp your feet.
(stomp feet)
Jump up and down,
(jump)
Then take a seat.
(Sit on the floor or in chairs)

Circle Time

Mary, Mary What Do You See?

(Tune: Brown Bear)

Children may leave or move to another activity when their name is called and they have called another child.

Teacher begins by saying, "Mary, Mary, who do you see?" Mary says, "I see Joe looking at me." The children say, "Joe, Joe who do you see" and this continues until all the children have had a turn.

Circle Time

The Laughing Handkerchief

Toss a colorful handkerchief in the air and ask 2-3 children to help out by laughing, stomping, or clapping as loud as they can while the handkerchief is in the air-then stop when it hits the ground. It won't be long until everyone's attention is on you and your group.

Circle Time

If You're Hungry and You Know It!

If you're hungry and you know it, clap your hands-
yum, yum!
If you're hungry and you know it, clap your hands-
yum, yum!
If you're hungry and you know it, then your stomach
surely show it,
If you're hungry and you know it, then your stomach
surely show it,
Yum, yum!
(Variations: If you're ready to go to the park, go
outside, etc.)

Lunch Time

Washing Hands

(Tune: Row, Row, Row)

We are ready to wash our hands Clean'em
1, 2, 3, Scrub, scrub, and dry them off
Now no more dirt you see.

Washing Hands

Are you Sleeping?

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Are you sleepy? Are you sleepy? Yes we
are! Yes we are!
It is time for nap, it is time for nap.
Let's be quiet. Let's be quiet.

Rest Time

Are you Listening?

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Are you listening, Are you listening? Look at me, Look at me.

If you are ready, if you are ready, To hear a story, to hear a story.

(Can substitute:
to line up, to line up, etc.)

Story Time

Grandpa's Glasses

Here are Grandpa's glasses, Here is Grandpa's hat. This is the way he holds his hands and puts them in his lap.

Here are Grandma's glasses, Here is Grandma's hat. This is the way she folds her hands and puts them in her lap.

But here are my glasses, and here is my hat. This is the way I fold my hands And put them in my lap.

Story Time

Storyteller's Chair

Storytelling is an old tradition that should be fostered in children. It helps develop oral language, confidence and good listening skills.

- Spray an adult chair with gold, add glitter, ribbons, etc.
- Write "Storyteller's Chair" on it.
- Use a storyteller's hat, cape, magic wand or other props to encourage storytelling.
- Choose one child to sit in the chair and tell stories to the other children.
- Stories may be original or their versions of familiar folk tales.

Story Time

Out to Play We Go!

Hi Ho! Hi Ho!
It's out to play we go.
We put on our coats
We do it ourselves!
Hi Ho! Hi Ho!

Outside Time

OUT

I'm gonna shake, shake, shake my sillies out I'm gonna shake, shake, shake my sillies out I'm gonna shake, shake, shake my sillies out Shake my sillies away.

Music Time

(Can substitute: jump my jiggles out, wiggle my waggles out, clap my crazies out)

Reach for the Ceiling

Reach for the ceiling, Touch the floor,
Stand up again, Let's do some more.

Touch your head, Touch your knee,
Up to your shoulders, Like this, you see?

Reach for the ceiling, Touch the floor,
That's all for now, There is no more.

Music Time

Animal Imitations

Have children imitate movements and sounds of various animals while the other children try to guess the animal

Music Time

Make Shape Cards

(star, oval, square, rectangle, triangle, circle, etc.)

Give each child a shape, ask them to name it one by one, and then let them go to next activity.

Center Time

Jack in the Box

Jack in the box, oh so still. Won't you
come out? Oh yes I will.

Substitute different children's names for
Jack. Children dramatize a jack in the box
jumping out saying, "Oh yes I will."

As child's name is called they dramatize
the poem and leave to choose a center.

Center Time

Caterpillar Bump

Caterpillars bump
Worms Wiggle
Bugs jiggle
Rabbits hop
Horses clop
Puppies bounce
Kittens pounce
Lions stalk
But... I walk

Lining Up

All by Myself

There are many things that I can
do, All by myself.

I can comb my hair and lace my
shoe, All by myself.

I can wash my hands and clean
my face, All by myself.

I can put my toys and blocks in
place, All by myself.

All About Me

Ten Little Fingers

I have ten little fingers, They all
belong to me.
I can make them do things, Would
you like to see?
I can close them up tight.
I can hold them up wide.
I can hold them up high.
I can put them at my side.
I can wave them to and from. And
I can hold them just so.

All About Me

Matching

Match the fingers on your hands
 One to one as up they stand. Match
 your two thumbs small and fat.
 Match two pointers just like that.
 Match two middle fingers tall. Match
 two ring ones. That's not all Match
 two fingers very small. Match two
 feet with socks and shoes.
 Match everything that goes by two's.

Alligator Pie

Alligator Pie, alligator pie.
 If I don't get some I think
 I'll just cry.
 Give away the green
 grass, Give away the sky.
 But don't you give away
 my alligator pie.

Rickety, Tickety

Rickety, Tickety look at
 me, how many fingers
 do you see?

(Children can count the
 number of fingers you
 hold up.)

I Know An Old Lady

I know an old lady who swallowed a fly! I don't know
 why she swallowed a fly! I guess she'll die!
 I know an old lady who swallowed a spider, that wiggled
 and wiggled and tickled inside her. She swallowed the
 spider to catch the fly, But I don't know why she
 swallowed the fly. I guess she'll die!
 Bird: Now, how absurd to swallow a bird! She swallowed
 a bird to catch the spider that...
 Cat: Now fancy that to swallow a cat! She swallowed a cat
 to catch the bird. She...
 Dog: My what a hog to swallow a dog! She swallowed the
 dog to catch the cat. She...
 Goat: Just opened her throat and in walked the goat! She
 swallowed the goat to catch the dog. She...
 Cow: I don't know how she swallowed a cow! She
 swallowed the cow to catch the goat. She...

Going on a ...

Pretend that you are going on a vacation, picnic, or to a party.

Misc.

Tell something that you would take with you.

Fingerplays and Rhymes

Conejo/Rabbit

Conejo, conejo, salta, salta.
Conejo, conejo, détente, détente.
Disculpame hoy, No puede jugar.
Estoy buscando las hojas de las zanahorias.

Rabbit, rabbit, hop, hop, hop,
Rabbit, rabbit, stop, stop, stop
Excuse me today. I cannot play.
I am off to look for a carrot top.

A Little Green Frog

A little green frog in a pond am I.
Hoppity, hoppity, hop! I sit on a
leaf that is high and dry.
Hoppity, hoppity, hop! I watch all
the fish as they swim by.
Hoppity, hoppity, hop. SPLASH!
How I make the water fly!
Hoppity, hoppity, SPLASH!

The Nut Tree

Five brown chestnuts fell from the tree.
I thought that the chestnuts were only
for me.

But one was taken home by a girl. And
one was taken home by a squirrel.
A chipmunk took one to her nest.
I hurried up and took all the rest.
I planted one nearby, you see. Some day,
we'll have a new nut tree.

Five Little Bunnies

Five little bunnies are such dears!
The first little bunny has pink ears.
(Hold up a finger at each side of head.)
The second little bunny has soft toes.
(Point to toes.)
The third little bunny sniffs with her
nose. (Make two sniffs.)
The fourth little bunny is very smart.
(Point to forehead.)
The fifth little bunny has a loving
heart. (Place hand over heart.)

Hands on Hips

Hands on hips: now turn around.
Plant your feet here in the
ground.

Twist your hips, now stretch and
bend.

Turn around. Smile at a friend.
Bend your body; sway and sway,
That is all we'll do today!

(Read slowly so that children will have
sufficient time to perform each activity.)

Playing a Drum

Tumpity, tumpity, tum _____ is
playing a drum.

One little girl/boy is dancing around. When
she/he hears that tumpity, tumpity sound.
Tumpity, tumpity, tum. _____ is playing a
drum.

One little boy/girl is hopping around When
he/she hears that tumpity, tumpity sound.

(Substitute names of children each time. Use a real drum and let the
children take turns playing it softly with fingers for various actions.
These additional actions maybe used: jumping, skipping, walking, leaping,
running.)



Octopus, Octopus

Octopus, Octopus down in the sea,
How many arms can you show me?

Only one, or will it be two?

Why are all these arms on you?

Will it be three or will it be four? Oh, dear me!

Are there really more?

Will it be five or will be six?

I think that my eyes are playing tricks.

Will it be seven or will it be eight?

Tell me, octopus. I cannot wait.

Octopus, octopus, down in the sea,

How many arms can you show me?

Child: "I have eight arms, as you can see."

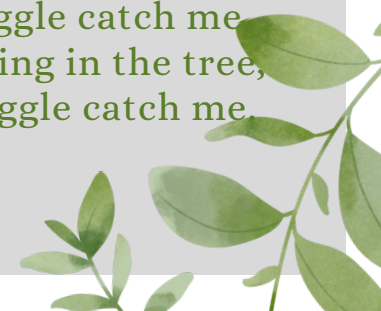
(Draw a circle for the body and add eight arms
or paint a paper sack gray and stuff it with newsprint,
tie it at the neck.

Then add eight crepe paper strips for arms.)




HIGGLE WIGGLE

Higgle Wiggle piggy, Muddy as can be,
Higgle wiggle try to Higgle wiggle catch me.
Higgle wiggle fish, Swimming in the sea
Higgle wiggle try to Higgle wiggle catch me
Higgle wiggle monkey, Swimming in the tree,
Higgle wiggle try to Higgle wiggle catch me.




HICKORY DICKORY DOCK

Hickory, dickory dock!
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down,
hickory, dickory, dock!



HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE

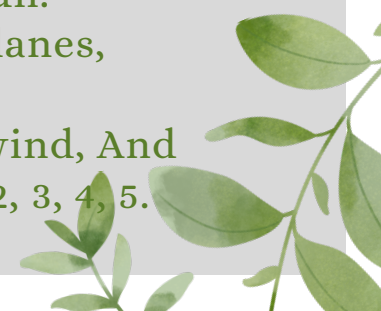
Hey, diddle diddle,
the cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed to see
such a sport,
And the dish ran away with the
spoon.






Five Little Kites

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 little kites,
Flying up in the sky
Said, "Hi" to the clouds as they
passed by.
Said "Hi" to the birds,
Said "Hi" to the sun.
Said "Hi" to the airplanes,
Oh, what fun!
Then, swish, went the wind, And
they all took a dive. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.



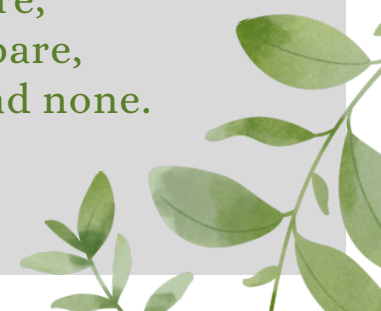
Five Little Fishes

Five little fishes swimming in the pool.
First one said, "The pool is cool."
Second one said, "The pool is deep."
Third one said, "I want to sleep." Fourth
one said, "Let's dive and dip."
Fifth one said, "I spy a ship."
The fisherman came and their lines
went ker-splash,
And away those fine little fishies did
dash!



Old Mother Hubbard

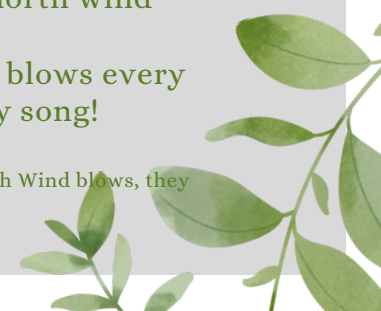
Old Mother Hubbard,
Went to the cupboard,
To get her poor dog a bone;
When she got there,
The cupboard was bare,
And so the poor dog had none.



Fall Leaves

One leaf and two leaves Tumbling to the
ground,
Three leaves and four leaves Make a rustling
sound.
Five leaves and six leaves Twirling all
around,
Seven leaves and eight leaves Whirling in
mound.
Nine leaves and ten leaves A north wind
comes along,
And blows every leaf along, And blows every
leaf away And that ends my song!

Ask children to pretend to be leaves. As the North Wind blows, they
scurry to their seats.



Counting Tumbleweeds

Ten little tumbleweeds were by the corral gate.
The wind woodshed two away and then there were

Eight little tumbleweeds said, "Oh, fiddlesticks!"
Two danced with the wind and then there were

Six little tumbleweeds heard the wild wind roar.
Two were whirled far away and then there were

Four little tumbleweeds were waiting for their cue.
A gentle breeze blew two away and then there were

Two little tumbleweeds, round and round they
spun Until they were out of sight and then there
was -----.

Songs and Activities

Boom Chica Chica Boom

I said boom chica boom. (children
repeat)

I said boom chica boom. (children
repeat)

I said a boom chica rocka chica rocka
chica boom. (children repeat)

Un, huh. (children repeat)

Oh, yeah. (children repeat)

One more time. (children repeat)

Try one of the following versions.

Opera version-Sing the verses, using arms and a dramatic voice.

Grumpy version-Put a frown on your face and stomp your feet.

Silent version-Mouth the words without any sound.

Book Buddies

Use Book Buddies before naptime or as children complete activities. Make an attractive display with big books, little books, books from the library, books children bring from home, homemade books. When the children are through with an activity or want something quiet to do, invite them to get a book and stuffed animal and "read" the book to their animal friend. Encourage the children to tell you about the book.

My Own Little Place

My own little place Where I can be.
My own little place No one else can see.
Here I can wiggle, Make faces, and giggle.
For this is the place That belongs to me.

Fall Five little Pumpkins

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate.
The first said, "Oh my, it's getting late."
The second one said, "There are
witches in the air."
The third one said, "But we don't care."
The fourth one said, "Let's run and run
and run."
The fifth one said, "I 'm ready for some
fun." Then "whoop" went the wind, and
out went the lights,
And the five little pumpkins rolled out
of sight."

Playing a Drum

Tumpity, tumpity, tum _____ is playing a
drum.

One little girl/boy is dancing around. When
she/he hears that tumpity, tumpity sound.

Tumpity, tumpity, tum. _____ is playing a
drum.

One little boy/girl is hopping around When
he/she hears that tumpity, tumpity sound.

(Substitute names of children each time. Use a real drum and let the children take
turns playing it softly with fingers for various actions. These additional actions
maybe used: jumping, skipping, walking, leaping, running).

Guessing Jar

The Guessing Jar is interesting anytime, or it can be
used with a particular theme simply by varying the
contents.

Place a number of objects in the jar and put in a
prominent place in the room. At circle time, pass the
jar around and let each child guess how many objects
are in it. Pour the contents of the jar on the floor and
count how many there are. Did anyone guess the
correct number? Who thought there were more? Who
thought there were less?

(On a large chart, write each child's name and his/her
estimate)

Going Up The Mountain

Going up the mountain one by one,
Going up the mountain one by one.
Going up the mountain one by one,
Ride Sugar ride.

Let's all make a statue one by one,
Make another statue one by one.
Make another statue one by one,
Ride Sugar ride.

A Sailor

A sailor went to sea-sea-sea
To see what he could see-see-see
And all that he could see-see-see
Was the bottom of the deep blue
sea-sea-sea

(Try: A sailor went to chop-chop-chop
A sailor went to knee-knee-knee
A sailor went to tap-tap-tap).

Baby Bumblebee

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee. (cup hands as if holding a bee)
Won't my mommy be so proud of me?
Buzzy-wuzzy-buzzy wuzzy. Oh, he stung me!

I'm bringing home a little baby bear.
Won't my mom climb up in a chair?
I'm bringing home a little baby bear.
Growl, growl, growl, growl, growl. (hold up hands and growl)

I'm bringing home a little rattlesnake.
Won't my mommy shiver and shake?
I'm bringing home a little rattlesnake.
Sss, sss, sss, ssss, ssss. (move arm like a snake)

I'm bringing home a little baby skunk.
Won't my mommy throw it in a trunk?
I'm bringing home a little baby skunk.
Pew, pew, pew, pew, pew! (hold nose)

I'm bringing home a hippopotamus.
Won't my mommy raise a great big fuss?
I'm bringing home a hippopotamus.
Stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp. (stomp feet).

Willoughby Wallaby

Willoughby Wallaby Woo
An elephant sat on you
Willoughby Wallaby Wavid
An elephant sat on David.
Whoa! Whoa!

Fe Fi Fo Fum

Fe Fi Fo Fum
Here are my fingers
Here are my thumbs
Fe Fi Fo Fum
There go my fingers
And there go my thumbs.

A Wiggle

A wiggle here and a wiggle there,
Now wiggle your hands up in the air.
Wiggle your shoulders, wiggle your hips,
Wiggle your knees and wiggle your lips,
Wiggle, wiggle, and wiggle some more
And sit yourself down on the floor.

Three Green Speckled Frogs

Three green speckled frogs sat on a
speckled log
Eating some most delicious bugs,
YUM YUM
One jumped into the pool where it
was nice and cool.
Then there were two green
speckled frogs. (Repeat verse)
Then there was one green speckled
frog (Repeat verse)
Then there were NO green
speckled frogs.

Animals and Insects

Here is an ostrich straight and tall (Arms above
head with wrist bent forward for ostrich's head)
Nodding her head above us all.
Here is a bull snake on the ground, (Move hand
back and forth)
Wiggling around with a hissing sound.
Here is an eagle flying high. (Spread arms and
move like wings.)
And spreading his wings across the sky.
Here is a porcupine with quills on back. (Spread
five fingers behind fist on other hand.)
Each quill is sharper than a sharp tack.
Here is a spider upon the gate. I counted its legs
and there were eight. (Hold up eight fingers.)
Here is an owl with great round eyes (Circle eyes
with fingers.)
And here are some flickering fireflies. (Wiggle
fingers.)

Alabama Mississippi

Alabama, Mississippi, Alabama, New Orleans.

Alabama, Mississippi, gonna shake it on down to New Orleans

Shake it, shake it, shake it, shake it baby.

Shake it, shake it, shake it, shake it baby.

Shake it down to New Orleans.

If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it,
stand right up!

If you're happy and you know it,
stand right up!

If you're happy and you know it,
then you're face will surely show
it.

If you're happy and you know it,
stand right up!

Four Young Frogs

Four young frogs were swimming in a pond.
(Hold up for four fingers.)

Of little green flies they were very, very, fond.
The first frog croaked with a glug, glug, glug, "I
wish I could find a fly or bug."

The second frog said, "Oh, I am very wise,
Because I have such great big eyes!"

The third frog said, "Oh, I see a fly! It seems to
be flying very close by."

The fourth frog gave an ENORMOUS yawn, And
snap, the little green fly was gone.

To Market, To Market

To market, to market, to buy a fat pig,
Home again, home again, jiggety jig.

To market, to market, to buy a fat hog,
Home again, home again, jiggety jog.

London Bridge

London Bridge is falling down, falling
down, falling down, London Bridge is
falling down, my fair lady.

Build it up with iron bars, iron bars,
iron bars. Build it up with iron bars,
my fair lady.

Build it up with gold and silver, gold
and silver, gold and silver, Build it
with gold and silver, my fair lady.

Take the key and lock her up, lock
her up, lock her up, Take the key and
lock her up, my fair lady.

Fingers, Fingers

Fingers, fingers, flit and fly.
Fingers, fingers, crawl up high.
Fingers, fingers, turn and twist.
Fingers, fingers, make a fist.
Fingers, fingers, crawl and creep.
Fingers, fingers, go to sleep.

Apple Tree

This is the tree
With leaves so green.
Here are the apples
That hang in between
When the wind blows
The apples will fall.
Here is the basket to gather
them all.

Remember your Name and Address

Remember your name and address and
telephone number too.
Then if some day you lose your way,
You'll know just what to do.
Walk up to that kind police man, The
very one you meet, And simply say, "I've
lost my way; I cannot find my street.
But I know my name and address and
telephone number too." Then he'll be
kind and help you find the dear ones who
wait for you.

John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt

John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt
His name is my name too.
Whenever we go out, the people
always shout, "JOHN JACOB
JINGLEHEIMER SCHMIDT!"
Dah dah dah dah, Dah, dah dah.

Do Your Ears Hang Low?

Do your ears hang low?
Do they wobble to and fro?
Can you tie them in a knot?
Can you tie them in a bow?
Can you throw them over your
shoulder like a continental soldier?
Do your ears hang low?

Little Boy Blue

Little boy blue, come blow your
horn,
The sheep's in the meadow, the
cow's in the corn.
Where is the boy who looks
after the sheep?
He's under the haystack fast
asleep.

Shoo Fly

Shoo fly don't bother me,
Shoo fly don't bother me,
Shoo fly don't bother me,
'Cause I belong to somebody