

Transition Tricks

Georgia's Pre-K Reads

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)

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!

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.)

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.

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.

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.)

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.

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!

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.

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

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.



The Laughing Handkerchief

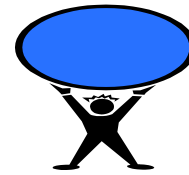
Toss a colorful handkerchief in the air and ask 2-3 children to help out by laughing, stomping, or clapping as loud as they can while the handkerchief is in the air-then stop when it hits the ground. It won't be long until everyone's attention is on you and your group.

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 and



Shapes

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.

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.

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.

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 wriggled and wriggled 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...



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 fro.
And I can hold them just so.

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.

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.

Pretend

Going on a ...

Pretend that you are going on a
vacation, picnic, or to a party. Tell
something that you would take with
you.

Animal Imitations

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

Caterpillar Bump

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

BAA, BAA, Black Sheep

"Baa, baa, black sheep, have you
any wool?"
"Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full:
One for my master and one for
my dame,
And one for the little boy who
lives down the lane."

FINGERPLAYS
&
RHYMES

SONGS
&
ACTIVITIES

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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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 "whooo" went the wind, and out went the lights,

And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight."



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.)

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?)

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.

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)*

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!

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.

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.

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 bullsnake 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.

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 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.

Counting Tumbleweeds

Ten little tumbleweeds were by the corral gate.
The wind wooshed 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
_____.

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.

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 some-
body