

Avoiding Transition Pitfalls

Transitions can be tough. Intentional planning can help with avoiding common transition pitfalls.

Transition Pitfall	How to Avoid
<p>All children come inside from outdoor play as a large group, causing children to have long wait times before washing their hands.</p>	<p>If staffing allows, try staggered transitions. One teacher can go indoors with a small group of children to help with hand washing, while the other teacher remains outdoors with the rest of the group. As children finish handwashing they can go straight to free play while the remaining children and teacher begin to transition to handwashing.</p> <p>Family Child Care: consider providing <i>designated</i> materials near the restroom so that children have something to do. Plan ahead to avoid contamination issues.</p>
<p>Children wait at tables for others to finish hand washing before meals.</p>	<p>Station one teacher to help with handwashing and one teacher to serve food to children as they finish handwashing.</p> <p>If food is not available yet, lead children in an engaging table activity (without materials), such as songs, fingerplays, or seated movement activities.</p> <p>Coordinate with food service staff to be notified of food delays before they occur.</p>
<p>The last few children wait for longer than 3 minutes to be dismissed from group to go to free play.</p>	<p>Be intentional about keeping the transition less than 3 minutes- call more than one child at a time, keep it moving, avoid focusing on rigid control before dismissing each child (sit on bottom, perfectly quiet, face forward, etc.).</p>
<p>In mixed age groups, infants or young toddlers are left in restrictive devices while older children transition.</p>	<p>Ensure that children have access to some materials if they need to remain in a device for a short period. Intentionally take steps to minimize the amount of time spent in restrictive furnishings.</p>
<p>Transitions take longer than expected and cut into the scheduled free play time.</p>	<p>Be sure to provide a “cushion” in the schedule before and after your Free Play periods to ensure children can maximize their free play experience. For instance, if your schedule goes straight from outdoor play to indoor free play, be sure to account for the time needed to transition indoors: hang up coats, wash hands, get a drink of water, etc.</p>
<p>All children must stop play when one child needs to use the restroom, which is located away from the play area.</p>	<p>Utilize floaters or other staff to take the child to the restroom.</p> <p>If additional staff is not available, lead the children in an engaging activity such as a verbal or logic game, song, fingerplays, or a movement activity.</p> <p>Family Child Care: consider providing <i>designated</i> materials near the restroom so that children have something to do. Plan ahead to avoid contamination issues.</p>