

TRANSITION TIPS AND TRICKS

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START EVERY DAY WITH A SONG!

Twinkle Friends

You're sure to have a great day when you do this activity to the tune of "Twinkle Little Star":

Twinkle, twinkle, little star. (Children face partner and touch
What a special friend you are. fingers gently in the air.)
From your head to your toes, (Point to head and then toes.)
We are special friends you know. (Hold hands and circle around.)
Twinkle, twinkle, little star, (Gently touch fingers to partner.)
What a special friend you are. (Hug friend.)

Now go find another friend (Children walk around the room
And we'll twinkle once again. and find another friend.)

Hello! How Are You?

Help the children learn each other's names at the beginning of the school year with this song to the tune of "Skip to My Lou":

Hello, how are you? (Wave hand.)
Hello, how are you?
Hello, how are you?
How are you this morning?

I am fine, and I hope you are, too. (Point to self, then a child.)
I am fine, and I hope you are, too.
I am fine, and I hope you are, too.
I hope you are too, this morning.

Turn to your neighbor and shake their hand. (Shake hands
Turn to your neighbor and shake their hand. with children.)
Turn to your neighbor and shake their hand,
Shake their hand this morning.

Hello, Neighbor!

This dance can be done to the tune of "Good Night, Ladies." Children can do this as a line dance or simply walk around the room and find a new partner.

Hello, neighbor. (Wave to partner.)
What do you say? (Give high five.)
It's going to be a (Slap thighs, clap hands,
Happy day. clap hands in the air with partner.)
Greet your neighbor. (Shake hands.)
Boogie on down. (Hands on hips and wiggle.)
Give a bump, (Bump thighs.)
And turn around. (Wave hands in air and turn around.)

Hint! Change "bump" to "jump" if your students get a little rough.

Rise and Shine

Rise and shine and welcome to kindergarten.
Rise and shine and welcome to kindergarten.
Rise and shine and welcome to kindergarten.
We're so glad you're here!

Sing louder, softer, and end with "whisper version.

Hint! Substitute your school's name or another grade level for the word "kindergarten."

Starting Line-up - Children form two lines and "high five" as friends run through.

Hand Hug - Form a circle, hold hands, and pass a "squeeze" around. Sit down when you feel the squeeze.

ATTENTION, PLEASE!

Tootsie Roll

Tootsie roll, (Roll hands around each other.)
Lollipop. (Pretend to lick a lollipop.)
We've been talking, (Open and shut fingers.)
Now let's stop! (Make sign language sign for "stop.")

Hocus Pocus

Teacher says:

"Hocus Pocus!" (Stick out index finger and circle around like a magic wand.)

Children respond:

"Everybody focus!" (Children make circles with fingers and thumbs and place around eyes like spectacles.)

H-A-P-P-Y

Teacher says: *Is everybody happy?*

Children repeat: *Yes, ma'm. H - a - p - p - y. Happy!* (Clap on letters.)

Give Me a Clap (Tune: "Addams Family")

Give me a clap. (Clap twice.)

Give me a clap. (Clap twice.)

Give me a clap, give me a clap,

Give me a clap. (Clap twice.)

Give me a snap. (Snap twice.)

Give me a snap. (Snap twice.)

Now fold your hands and put them down

Into your lap. (Model putting your hands in your lap.)

Sit Down Chant

Clap your hands. (Clap 3 times slowly.)

Stomp your feet. (Stomp slowly 3 times.)

Put your bottom

in your seat!

How Does My Teacher Feel About Me?

Teacher says: "How does my teacher feel about me?"

Children respond: "I'm as special as special can be because my teacher believes in me!"

Magic Clap

Explain to the children that you have a magic signal that only your class will know about. Every time you clap your hands, you want them to repeat the clap and look at you.

Practice this by clapping patterns, such as:

clap, clap ~ clap

clap, clap, clap ~ clap ~ clap

After children have repeated the clap and are focused on you, give directions for the next activity.

Make Rain

Hold up palm as you say, "Let's make rain. Do what I do."

Tap pointer finger on palm for several seconds.

Tap pointer finger and middle finger.

Tap pointer, middle, and ring finger.

Tap pointer, middle, ring, and pinky on palm.

Clap hands together loudly, then reverse movements.

Tap pointer, middle, ring, and pinky on palm.

Tap pointer, middle, and ring finger.

Tap pointer and middle finger.

Tap pointer finger on palm.

Slowly bring palms together and put in your lap.

Hands on Top

Teacher says: Hands on top. (Place hands on head.)

Students respond: Everybody stop. (Place hands on head and freeze.)

Criss Cross

Criss cross, (Sit on floor and cross legs.)

Be your own boss. (Fold your arms and nod head.)

Sitting Chant

1, 2, 3, 4 - glue your bottoms to the floor.

5, 6, 7, 8 - hands to yourself and sit up straight.

Happy Chappy

You will need some lip balm with a fragrance. Gently rub children's right hand with a "happy chappy" when they are following directions.

I Think I Can

This is a great song to sing to encourage children to always give it a try. It goes to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

I think I can are words I like to say.

I think I can are words I like to say.
In time I'll get it right if I try with all my might.
I think I can are words I like to say.

You Get What You Get
(Tune: "Farmer in the Dell")

When children complain about not getting the color or item they wanted you can smile and sing:

You get what you get.
You get what you get.
Just like in the gum machine,
You get what you get.

OH, WELL!!!!

LINE UP

Line-Up Cadence
Slap thighs to the beat and have children echo each line:

Lining up is easy to do (Children repeat.)
When you take care of only you.
Feet together, hands by sides.
We've got spirit, we've got pride.
Sound off – 1, 2.
Hit it again – 3, 4.
Ready now – 1, 2, 3, 4 – out the door!

I'm Ready
Teach children to say this chant before leaving the room:

I'm looking straight ahead of me.
My arms are at my side.
My feet are quiet as can be,
I'm ready for outside.

Hint! Write the chant on a poster and tape it to the door.
You can also sing this to the tune from "Gilligan's Island."

Hey! Hey!
Put your hands in the air and sing to "Land of a Thousand Dances":

Na, na, na, na!	(Wave arms in the air.)
Na, na, na, na!	(Wave arms in the air.)
Hey, hey, hey.	(Hands on hips and wiggle.)
Good job!	(Clap twice.)
Na, na, na, na!	
Na, na, na, na!	
Hey, hey, hey.	

Get in line.

Hint! Change the last line to whatever you want the children to do, such as "Sit down," "Get out your math books," etc

Hips and Lips

Say "Hips and lips" before you leave the classroom. Children put one hand on their hips and the other hand on their lips.

You can also say "Lick 'em and stick 'em. Children pretend to lick hands and glue them to their body.

How about, "Show me your angel wings?" Children put hands behind backs and extend elbows like wings.

"Super" Visor

You will need a sun visor for this activity. Each day write a letter, numeral, shape, word, or other information on an index card and tape it to the visor. One child is selected "Super Visor" for the day and gets to wear the visor. The "Super Visor" stands at the door before you leave for lunch, PE, etc. All the friends must identify the information on the visor before proceeding out the door.

Tidy Up

Sing this song to the tune of "Jingle Bells" to remind children to clean up:

Chorus:

Tidy up, tidy up, put your things away.

Tidy up, tidy up, we're finished for today.

Oh, tidy up, tidy up, put your things away.

For we'll get them out again another school day.

We've had lots of fun as we've worked and played.

Now it's time to all join in and play the clean up game.

GOOD-BYE!

Recall

Recall the day's activities with recall ball.

Partner share.

Pass the mike.

Brain tickets.

Hey, hey, what do you say?

What did you learn at school today?

We Had a Good Day

End the day with a smile with this song to the tune of "La Cucaracha."

We had a good day. We had a great day.

So pat yourself on the back. (Pat self on back.)

We had a good day. We had a great day.

So pat yourself on the back. (Pat self on back.)

We thought a lot today. We learned in many ways.

So kiss your brains. (Pretend to kiss brain.)

We thought a lot today. We learned in many ways.

So kiss your brains. (Pretend to kiss brain.)

It's time to say, "so long," and end with a song.

Wave good-bye to your friends. (Wave and smile.)

It's time to say, "so long," and end with a song.

Wave good-bye to your friends. (Wave and smile.)

The More We Get Together

Here are a few new verses to a traditional song:

The more we get together, together, together.

The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

For your friends are my friends,

and my friends are your friends.

The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

The more we learn together...

The more we play together...

The more we sing together...

It Is Time to Say Good-Bye

Sing this song to the tune of "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain" right before children go out the door.

It is time to say "good-bye" to all my friends.

It is time to say "good-bye" to all my friends.

It is time to say "good-bye,"

give a smile and wink your eye.

It is time to say "good-bye" to all my friends.

Good-bye, friends. Yee haw!

Hint! Clap your hands and stomp your feet as you sing.