

Transition to Kindergarten

Resource Guide

Strong partnerships between Head Start programs and receiving elementary schools help children and families transition from early learning settings to kindergarten with confidence and success. The transition to kindergarten resources listed in this guide include all of the resources available on the ECLKC **Transition to Kindergarten** webpage. These resources can support your collaboration efforts between Head Start and receiving elementary school stakeholders and guide the implementation of evidence-based transition practices. Resources in this guide are organized by purpose and are listed alphabetically. It also provides suggested resource bundles to support specific audiences and transition to kindergarten events.

Resource Catalogue.....1

Check out the resource categories below, if your goal is to:

- **Gather Information** - Resources to increase knowledge about the transition to kindergarten.
- **See It** - Resources to show what effective transition practices look like.
- **Apply It** - Resources to support leaders, educators, and families to carry out effective kindergarten transition practices.
- **Host a Summit** - Resources to plan and carry out a transition to kindergarten summit.

Resource Bundles.....6

See suggestions for gathering transition to kindergarten materials for a variety purposes:

- **Target Your Audience** - The transition to kindergarten resources organized based on a targeted audience of leaders, educators, or families.
- **Plan an Event** - Suggested ways to gather resources for a few common types of transition to kindergarten events for educators, leaders, or families.
- **Host a Summit** - A graphic organizer of summit planning and presentation materials, as well as guiding questions to help you select handouts specific to your summit audience.



Gather Information

- **A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success**
 - A quick glance at the “what, why, and how” of successful kindergarten transitions. Leaders, educators, families, and others involved in the transition process can refer to this resource to get familiar with the basic elements of the transition to kindergarten.
- **Collaborations, Connections, and Six Steps to Success**
 - An overview of the impact of successful kindergarten transitions, the four points of connection necessary in the transition process, the six steps to planning for the transition, and success stories from the field. Leaders can use this guide to deepen understandings of the key elements of the transition to kindergarten as they begin framing a kindergarten transition plan.
- **Family Engagement in Transitions: Transition to Kindergarten**
 - A guide to supporting families through the transition to kindergarten, including practical strategies and a look at how family involvement in the transition leads to better outcomes for children. This resource supports leaders and educators to deepen understandings about family engagement and to identify specific, effective, family engagement practices.
- **Family Engagement and School Readiness**
 - A look at the importance of family engagement in the transition to kindergarten, as well as strategies and activity ideas that educators and families can apply to understand and support school readiness.
- **Health Services to Promote Attendance**
 - A resource for leaders and educators which includes case studies and a variety of practical strategies for supporting children’s health, which in turn prevents absences and increases engagement in learning and development activities that support school readiness.
- **Healthy Children are Ready to Learn**
 - An overview of mental and physical health factors that influence children’s school readiness, comprehensive health services that can support children in these areas, and a set of reflection questions to guide leaders and educators in supporting children’s overall health through a school readiness lens.
- **Policy Connections at a Glance**
 - An overview of federal early childhood policies and guidance to inform decision-making and practices in support of positive transitions to kindergarten for all children and their families. Leaders can refer to this document to ensure that their plans and programs meet national standards for the transition to kindergarten.

- **Supporting Transitions: Resources for Building Collaboration**
 - A series of briefs on supporting transitions with a focus on building partnerships within and across early learning settings. These briefs provide information for leaders and educators about specific elements of transitions, including guiding principles of child development, family partnerships, policy and practice, and partnerships with other educational organizations and stakeholders.
- **The Transition to Kindergarten: Engaging Families Newsletter**
 - A bi-monthly electronic newsletter that follows a Head Start educator, child, and family through their transition efforts in the year leading up to kindergarten, and includes ideas, tips, and strategies for partnering with families and elementary schools in the kindergarten transition process. Educators can use the narrative and practical tips in this series of newsletters as a model for their own transition efforts.
- **Transition Resources for Leaders and Educators**
 - A list of resources—including practical guides, special topics, and research—about the kindergarten transition for leaders and educators looking for further information and research evidence in support of kindergarten transition efforts.
- **Transition Resources for Families**
 - A list of resources—including practical guides, special topics, and research—for families seeking to enrich their understanding and support of their children during the kindergarten transition process.
- **Transition Resources for Researchers**
 - A list of kindergarten transition research resources for those interested in exploring independent research into the evidence behind, the transition to kindergarten.

See It in Action

- **Building Bridges: Educators Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten (Full Length)**
 - A three-part video for educators that highlights the key components of successful kindergarten transitions – information, relationships, and alignment – and offers practical strategies that educators can implement during the transition process.
- **Building Bridges: Educators Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten (Vignettes)**
 - A three-part video series for educators, in which each video highlights one key component of successful kindergarten transitions – information, relationships, and alignment. Each video offers practical strategies for educators to implement during the transition process.
 - » **Building Relationships**
 - » **Practicing Alignment**
 - » **Sharing Information**
- **Building Bridges: Families Engaging in the Transition to Kindergarten**
 - A video for Head Start and elementary school leaders, educators, and families about the benefits of family engagement in the transition to kindergarten, as well as strategies for promoting family engagement.

- ***Building Bridges: Leaders Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten***
 - An in-depth video for Head Start and elementary school leaders that highlights the key components of successful kindergarten transitions and offers practical implementation strategies from fellow leaders in the field.
- ***Engaging Families in the Transition to Kindergarten***
 - A video profiling how a Laguna, New Mexico Head Start program prepares and engages families in the kindergarten transition process. This video models strong family engagement at the program level for leaders, educators, and families seeking to promote family engagement.
- ***Family and Community Partnerships for School Readiness***
 - A video profiling a family support program in Dunkirk, New York which enacts a variety of strategies to promote school readiness. This video offers leaders and educators an example of a coordinated family engagement approach at the program level.
- ***Head Start and Receiving Elementary Schools: Transitions that Work***
 - A short video offering a glance at Head Start and elementary school leaders who partner to ensure successful kindergarten transitions. This video provides a conversation starter or jumping-off point for leaders entering deeper discussions or planning efforts regarding the transition to kindergarten.

Apply It

- ***Activity Calendar for Educators***
 - A calendar for early childhood educators that includes month-by-month activity lists for supporting the kindergarten transition in the year prior to kindergarten entry. Educators can use this calendar to plan, enact, and document transition efforts throughout the year.
- ***Activity Calendar for Families***
 - A calendar for families that includes month-by-month activity lists for supporting the kindergarten transition in the year prior to kindergarten entry. Families can use this calendar to plan, enact, and document transition efforts throughout the year.
- ***Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families***
 - Strategies and information that educators can share with families to prepare for, and support, transitions into new learning settings in general, including the transition from an early learning program to kindergarten.
- ***Educator Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten***
 - A list of specific, research-based activities, organized by four key points of connection with the elementary school, which educators can choose from and implement to support successful kindergarten transitions.
- ***Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary***
 - A guide to common terms and staff roles within Head Start programs and elementary schools, with a crosswalk comparison of terms and roles between settings. Leaders, educators, families, and involved community members can use this guide to familiarize themselves with each setting.
- ***Leadership Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten***

- A packet of specific, research-based practices and activity recommendations organized around the four key points of connection with the elementary school, which leaders can select from and implement to support the transition to kindergarten.
- **Planning Calendar for Education Managers**
 - A calendar for Head Start Education Managers that includes monthly planning tasks and activities for supporting educators in a variety of settings across a program year. The calendar includes specific notes and tasks for facilitating kindergarten transition efforts throughout the year.
- **Ready, Set, Go! Planning a Kindergarten Registration Event**
 - A step-by-step guide for leaders in early learning and elementary school settings to plan and host a successful and inclusive kindergarten registration event that incorporates all four points of connection.
- **Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten**
 - A list of children's books about kindergarten which families and educators can read with children to support their understanding of the transition process and new school setting.
- **Transition to Kindergarten: Partnering with Families and Schools**
 - An interactive simulation in which educators and leaders can practice having conversations with families and school leaders about the transition to kindergarten, and develop strengths-based, relationship-based practices.
- **Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners**
 - A focused guide for leaders and educators to support children who are dual language learners, and their families, through a successful transition to kindergarten.
- **Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)**
 - A practical guide for leaders and educators to provide individualized support children with IEPs, and their families, through a successful transition to kindergarten.
- **Transition Plan Form and Transition Plan Example**
 - A sample transition plan and a blank planning form that can be edited by leaders as they build a kindergarten transition team and plan.
- **Your Child Is Going to Kindergarten: Making the Move Together**
 - A step-by-step guide for families to support their children and engage in the kindergarten transition process, with tips and activities organized across a timeline.

Host a Summit

Presentation Materials

- **Presentation Slide References**
 - A list of the references used in developing the "Supporting an Effective Transition to Kindergarten" presentation.

- **Supporting an Effective Transition to Kindergarten**

- A comprehensive deck of presentation slides on the “what, why, and how” of effective kindergarten transitions. This presentation can be customized, and is intended for use at a kindergarten transition summit for leaders, educators, and other stakeholders in the transition to kindergarten.

Planning Materials

- **Agenda for Full-Day Summit**

- An editable agenda for a full-day kindergarten transition summit, which can be used to plan a full-day summit and given to summit attendees.

- **Agenda for Half-Day Summit**

- An editable agenda for a half-day kindergarten transition summit, which can be used to plan a half-day summit and given to summit attendees.

- **Post-Summit Feedback Questionnaire**

- An editable post-summit questionnaire to gather feedback about the event from summit attendees and inform future summit planning.

- **Pre-Summit Questionnaire of Transition Practices**

- An editable pre-summit questionnaire for summit attendees that can be used to gather information about the summit audience and inform event planning.

- **Sample Activity Materials**

- A set of sample interactive activities, focused on the four points of connection, for presenters to model during the presentation.

- **Summit Announcement**

- An editable kindergarten transition summit announcement to send potential summit attendees.

- **Transition Summit Guide**

- A concise guide that walks leaders of local kindergarten transition efforts through the steps of planning and hosting a successful kindergarten transition summit.



Transition to Kindergarten

Resource Bundles

Target Your Audience

Support a targeted audience of leaders, educators, or families with these suggested bundles of transition to kindergarten resources.

Leadership Support Materials	Educator Support Materials	Family Support Materials
<p>Gather Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success</i> • <i>Collaborations, Connections, and Six Steps to Success</i> • <i>Family Engagement and School Readiness</i> • <i>Family Engagement in Transitions: Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Policy Connections at a Glance</i> • <i>Transition Resources for Leaders and Educators</i> • <i>Supporting Transitions: Resources for Building Collaboration</i> <p>See It in Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building Bridges: Leaders Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Head Start and Receiving Elementary Schools: Transitions that Work</i> <p>Apply It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary</i> • <i>Leadership Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Planning Calendar for Education Managers</i> • <i>Ready, Set, Go! Planning a Kindergarten Registration Event</i> • <i>Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners</i> • <i>Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)</i> • <i>Transition Plan Example</i> • <i>Transition Plan Form</i> 	<p>Gather Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success</i> • <i>Family Engagement and School Readiness</i> • <i>Family Engagement in Transitions: Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Transition Resources for Leaders and Educators</i> • <i>Supporting Transitions: Resources for Building Collaboration</i> <p>See It in Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building Bridges: Educators Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Engaging Families in the Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Family and Community Partnerships for School Readiness</i> • <i>Head Start and Receiving Elementary Schools: Transitions that Work</i> <p>Apply It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activity Calendar for Educators</i> • <i>Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families</i> • <i>Educator Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary</i> • <i>Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten</i> • <i>Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners</i> • <i>Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)</i> • <i>Transition to Kindergarten: Partnering with Families and Schools</i> 	<p>Gather Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transition Resources for Families</i> <p>See It in Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building Bridges: Families Engaging in the Transition to Kindergarten</i> <p>Apply It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activity Calendar for Families</i> • <i>Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary</i> • <i>Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten</i> • <i>Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners</i> • <i>Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)</i> • <i>Your Child Is Going to Kindergarten: Making the Move Together</i>

Plan an Event

Use these suggested bundles of transition to kindergarten resources as a starting point as you organize for a training event or meeting. Feel free to customize these bundles to suit your specific goals and audience.

Joint Professional Development Event for Educators		
1-Hour Event	Half Day Event	Full Day Event
<p>Gather Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success</i> <p>See It in Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building Bridges: Educators Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten</i> <p>Apply It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activity Calendar for Educators</i> • <i>Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families</i> • <i>Educator Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten</i> • <i>Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners</i> • <i>Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)</i> 	<p>Gather Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success</i> <p>See It in Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building Bridges: Educators Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Engaging Families in the Transition to Kindergarten</i> <p>Apply It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activity Calendar for Educators</i> • <i>Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families</i> • <i>Educator Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary</i> • <i>Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten</i> • <i>Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners</i> • <i>Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)</i> 	<p>Gather Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success</i> • <i>Family Engagement and School Readiness</i> • <i>Family Engagement in Transitions: Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Transition Resources for Leaders and Educators</i> • <i>Supporting Transitions: Resources for Building Collaboration</i> <p>See It in Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building Bridges: Educators Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Engaging Families in the Transition to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Family and Community Partnerships for School Readiness</i> • <i>Head Start and Receiving Elementary Schools: Transitions that Work</i> <p>Apply It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activity Calendar for Educators</i> • <i>Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families</i> • <i>Educator Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten</i> • <i>Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary</i> • <i>Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten</i> • <i>Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners</i> • <i>Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)</i> • <i>Transition to Kindergarten: Partnering with Families and Schools</i>

Collaboration Event for Head Start and Elementary School Leaders

1-Hour Event

Gather Information

- *A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success*
- *Collaborations, Connections, and Six Steps to Success*
- *Policy Connections at a Glance*

See It in Action

- *Building Bridges: Leaders Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten*

Apply It

- *Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families*
- *Leadership Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten*
- *Ready, Set, Go! Planning a Kindergarten Registration Event*
- *Transition Plan Example*
- *Transition Plan Form*

Half Day Event

Gather Information

- *A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success*
- *Collaborations, Connections, and Six Steps to Success*
- *Family Engagement and School Readiness*
- *Policy Connections at a Glance*

See It in Action

- *Building Bridges: Leaders Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten*

Apply It

- *Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families*
- *Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary*
- *Leadership Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten*
- *Ready, Set, Go! Planning a Kindergarten Registration Event*
- *Transition Plan Example*
- *Transition Plan Form*

Full Day Event

Gather Information

- *A Brief: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success*
- *Collaborations, Connections, and Six Steps to Success*
- *Family Engagement and School Readiness*
- *Family Engagement in Transitions: Transition to Kindergarten*
- *Policy Connections at a Glance*
- *Transition Resources for Leaders and Educators*
- *Supporting Transitions: Resources for Building Collaboration*

See It in Action

- *Building Bridges: Leaders Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten*
- *Head Start and Receiving Elementary Schools: Transitions that Work*

Apply It

- *Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families*
- *Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary*
- *Leadership Practices for Successful Transitions to Kindergarten*
- *Ready, Set, Go! Planning a Kindergarten Registration Event*
- *Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners*
- *Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)*
- *Transition Plan Example*
- *Transition Plan Form*

Kindergarten Registration Event for Families

1-Hour Event

See It in Action

- *Building Bridges: Families Engaging in the Transition to Kindergarten*

Apply It

- *Activity Calendar for Families*
- *Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten*
- *Your Child Is Going to Kindergarten: Making the Move Together*

Half Day Event

See It in Action

- *Building Bridges: Families Engaging in the Transition to Kindergarten*

Apply It

- *Activity Calendar for Families*
- *Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten*
- *Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners*
- *Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)*
- *Your Child Is Going to Kindergarten: Making the Move Together*

Full Day Event

Gather Information

- *Transition Resources for Families*

See It in Action

- *Building Bridges: Families Engaging in the Transition to Kindergarten*

Apply It

- *Activity Calendar for Families*
- *Head Start-Elementary School Shared Language Glossary*
- *Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten*
- *Supporting Children Who Are Dual Language Learners*
- *Supporting Children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)*
- *Your Child Is Going to Kindergarten: Making the Move Together*



Host a Summit

Plan and host your own transition to kindergarten summit using these presentation and planning materials, and use the guiding questions below to help you choose a variety of supplemental resources specific to your summit audience.

Summit Materials

Presentation

- *Presentation Slides References*
- *Supporting an Effective Transition to Kindergarten*

Apply It

- *Agenda for Full-Day Summit*
- *Agenda for Half-Day Summit*
- *Post-Summit Feedback Questionnaire*
- *Pre-Summit Questionnaire of Transition Practices*
- *Sample Activity Materials*
- *Summit Announcement*
- *Transition Summit Guide*

Supplemental Resources

Browse the resource catalogue to select the transition to kindergarten resources that best support the needs of your summit participants.

In the selection process, consider the following questions:

- Who is in your audience?
- What are the key goals of the Summit?
- What partnerships do you hope to highlight and support?
- How much time is available?



NATIONAL CENTER ON
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

This document was developed with funds from Grant #90HC0012 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, and the Office of Child Care by the National Center for Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

Spring 2020