

CLASSROOM TRANSITIONS



1

Children know what is expected

- + Practice call-and-response, model the behavior, and have the children practice freezing and focusing their attention, as they would during a transition.
- + Give a warning before the transition time. This allows children to start wrapping up and know that a transition is coming. Incorporate Regard for Student Perspectives by inviting a child to circulate with a 2 or 5-minute warning sign.
- + Use a picture card schedule so children know what comes next.
- + Use positive reinforcement and encouragement when you see attention and teamwork during clean-up.

2

Use cues to signal the transition

- + Use visual cues posted near transition locations to provide visual prompts for the next transition or schedule change such as photos of a coat, hat, and boots to prompt a child to get ready to go outside.
- + Music, songs, a bell, or other predictable noises help signal the start of a transition.
- + Set a timer to show how much time is left before the transition.
- + One of the children can give the signal (e.g., ring a triangle), then guide the others to strike a pose to help children stop what they are doing and begin clean-up.

3

Provide an opportunity for learning

- + If a transition might take longer, (ex. waiting to switch classrooms, walking to the cafeteria) use the time as a learning opportunity by incorporating patterns, naming colors, letters of the alphabet, etc into how students line up or move.
- + Remember that many important skills can be built during cleanup and transitions including sorting, classifying, teamwork, and problem-solving.

*Ideas collected from discussion in CLASS Learning Community.