

## 75 TRANSITION IDEAS DEVELOPED BY EMAA ASSISTANT TEACHERS IN 2007

### Sing: Everybody Do What I Do?

#### Songs: Good Transition Songs

- ABCs
- Wheels on the Bus
- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
- Father Abraham
- Five Little Ducks
- Sally, the Camel
- Dinosaur Song
- Little Bunny Foo, Foo
- 1 Little, 2 Little, 3 Little \_\_\_\_\_  
[something from topic, children's names, etc.]

#### Rhymes: Nursery Rhymes

- Jack and Jill
- Little Miss Muffet
- Humpty Dumpty
- Jack Be Nimble
- Hickory Dickory Dock
- Wee Willie Winkie Runs Through the Town
- Mary, Mary Quite Contrary
- Little Bo Peep
- Hey Diddle Diddle
- Diddle Diddle Dumpling, My Son John
- One, Two, Buckle My Shoe
- Baa, Baa Black Sheep
- Mary Had a Little Lamb

#### Rhymes: Good Transition Rhymes and Fingerplays

Where Is Thumbkin? Where Is Thumbkin?

Here I am. Here I am.

How are you today, sir?

Very well I thank you.

Run away. Run away. [Hide hands behind back.]

2) pointer, 3) tall finger, 4) ring finger, 5) little finger.

Open, shut them, open, shut them.

Give your hands a clap.

Open, shut them, open, shut them.

Put them in your lap.

[Note say: "Hey, clap-lap rhymes!"]

Here are grandpa's glasses, here is grandpa's hat.

This is the way he folds his hands and puts them in his lap.

Two little black birds sitting on the fence.

One named Jack, the other named Jill.

Fly away, Jack. Fly away, Jill. Come back, Jack. Come back, Jill.

Who took the cookie from the cookie jar?

\_\_\_\_\_ took the cookie from the cookie jar.

Who me? Yes, you?

Wasn't me. (OR "Uh-a.")

Then....

Who took the cookie from the cookie jar?

[That child names another child.]

Three [two, one] little monkeys swinging from a tree  
Teasing Mr. Alligator, can't catch me....can't catch me.  
Along came Mr. Alligator quiet as can be  
And snapped that monkey out of that tree.

#### Going on a Bear Hunt

#### Activity: Pretend to....

*Act out the following and make up many more, especially relate to topic being studied:*

- Be different animals: walk like a duck; bark like a dog, wiggle nose like a rabbit.
- Be things (airplane, motorcycle, cylinder, ball, robot).
- Hold up a wall.
- Climb a rainbow.

#### Act Out

Boys – we act like we are getting into a monster truck or 18-wheeler. We climb in from the big step, turn on the truck, drive the truck (we bounce because the truck is big), we swerve to miss birds, stop at stop signs, wait for people to cross the road, turn corners—anything you may do in a truck.

Girls – we have a baby. We have to give the baby a bath, dress the baby, feed the baby, burp the bay, bounce the baby, etc.

- We do all this while we are waiting for the bathroom. You make it last as long as you need to and make it as informative as you want.
- The kids love it. Sometimes it's fun to have the girls drive the truck and the boys take care of and feed the baby.

#### Walking Through the Jungle

1. Hands hitting legs, making walking noise.
2. "Walking through the jungle, what do you see?"
3. Stop 'walking' and have a child answer. Repeat refrain and so on down the line and let each child have a turn.

#### Activity: Can You Do What I Am Doing?

Have children imitate what one child is doing. After a few rounds, select another child.

#### Activity: Sign Language

Waiting times are a great time to practice sign language!

#### Activity: Noises

Make: jungle noises.

happy/sad/scared noises

vehicle noises

#### Activity: Moving to Shapes/Colors

Have children step on one shape or color—and then move to another.

#### Activity: Try to learn to whistle

**Umbrella:** Have children follow the person with the small umbrella

**Sing:** Have a child who wants to, to sing a song for the rest of the children.

## Memory Game: What's Missing

1. Get small items from the room.
2. Place them on the table.
3. Have the kids look at the items, then close their eyes.
4. Remove an item.
5. Let them tell you which one is missing.

### Variations

Use objects related to the topic you are studying.  
Before the transition time, let a child pick objects.

## Game: Charades

1. Pretend to do a action.
2. Others guess what or who it is.

### Variation

Have actions related to what you are studying.

## Game: Simon Says

Let a child be the leader and give directions about what children are to do.

[With preschoolers, ignore the part where you don't say "Simon says\_\_\_\_\_"]

## Game: Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone?

Doggy, doggy, where's your bone?

Somebody took it from your home.

Guess who! Maybe you...

Maybe the monkeys from the zoo.

Wake up doggy, find your bone.

1. Have one child, who sits in the center of the circle of children, close or cover his or her eyes while the rhyme is being chanted.
2. Have an adult give the 'bone' to one of the children while chanting the song. Have all the children hide their hands behind their backs.
3. When the chant is over the doggy can uncover his or her eyes and guess which person has the bone.  
That child gets to be the next doggy.

Note: Point out that bone-home and you-zoo rhyme.

## Teach the 'I Am Listening Sign'

To get the kids quiet while transitioning, the teacher will put two fingers in the air and wait for the children to see them.

When the children see this, they will put their two fingers in the air to let the teacher know that they are listening.

## Whoever....

\_\_\_\_\_ today, may [go wash hands, leave for Choice Time, etc.].

....is wearing green (yellow, red)

....as a name that starts with the m-m-m-m sound.

....has younger brother (sister, older brother or sister, no siblings, baby).

....*anything that relates to what you are studying.*

**Use Puppets**...to call out children's names, to name colors.

**Split Up into Groups:** When children at a table are finished eating, brush teeth then leave with teacher or assistant teacher.

**Call on others:** Have child be responsible for calling others to line up, going to choice, etc.

## Talking with Children

### Talk to Them

....About something of interest to them, such as what they did over the weekend.

....About what they have been learning during the week.

### Ask Questions

Personal questions: birthday, address, phone number

What is your favorite...(color, kind of car)

Do you have a ....(pet, sister)

*Perhaps graph answers.*

### Who's Here Today?

Can we see who is here and who is absent today?

### Waiting for Turn on Computer

Talk with child about how you find the game you would like to play.

### Count

- How many times you clap your hands....
- How many boys are in line....How many girls?
- How many steps you take to get from the classroom to the lunch room.
- While waiting for rest room, count floor squares.

### Identify

Hold up for children to identify when it is their turn....

....foam ABCs.

....pictures of native Missouri animals, birds or plants.

....*anything that relates to what you are studying.*

### What Color Is...

In line for the bathroom or outside:

What color is.....the sky?...the clouds?...the grass?...the trees?

Oh, I see apples on that tree. What color are they?

### Shapes

To the first child.

"Find one thing in the room that is \_\_\_\_\_ shape."

Pick a different shape for each turn.

### Stories: Tell a story

Tell the children a story. OR Have a child tell a story.

As a child comes to group time, or is next for washing up, have them be a character in the story.

### Read a Book

....if your table is the first one seated or the first one done eating.

....if you are waiting for others to put on their coats.

**Have one child read to another.**

