



MISSISSIPPI
TRANSITION **toolkit**
for Families and Early Learning Providers



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mississippi Transition Toolkit for Families and Early Learning Providers is a collection of resources to support early learning programs as they build positive, effective bridges into early elementary grades and ensure continuous learning across home, childcare, preschool, and school. The Mississippi Toolkit for Families and Early Learning Providers reflects best practice recommendations for transition combined into one usable document for families, childcare, teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators.

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TRANSITION BEST PRACTICES

Click on Each Hyperlink to Access Each Document or Website

1. [Transition Principles and Practices: An Approach to Supporting Children and Families](#)
Introduction to understanding the importance of the process for children and families as they move from preschool to kindergarten and from kindergarten to first grade.
2. [How to Use the Transition Toolkit](#)
An explanation of the Toolkit and how it can be used.
3. [School Readiness Definition](#)
Mississippi has created a definition for when children are ready to enter kindergarten. The definition looks at age and different viewpoints about school readiness that involve a combination of efforts involving children, families, schools, communities, and the state.
4. [Transition Plan: Pre-K to Kindergarten/Kindergarten to First Grade](#)
Pre-k and kindergarten teachers can support the transition by passing along useful information to the receiving teachers. This information can be used by the new teachers to start with a basic understanding of each child's personal and academic profile.
5. [Pre-K to Kindergarten: Successful Transitions](#)
PowerPoint slide presentation on strategies and activities that can assist in transitioning children from preschool into kindergarten.
6. [Child Information Sheet Sample: Pre-K to K](#)
Blank Child Information Sheet which provides an opportunity for early learning programs, with parent input, to provide basic information on children and their learning styles as they enter kindergarten.
7. [Child Information Sheet Sample: K to 1st Grade](#)
Blank Child Information Sheet which provides an opportunity for early learning programs, with parent input, to provide basic information on children and their learning styles as they enter first grade.
8. [Transition Webinar](#)
Recording of a Power Point presentation explaining how an early education teacher can create a transition folder for a child moving from one level to the next, either preschool into kindergarten or kindergarten into first grade. The presentation includes visual examples.
9. [Transition Folder Development PPT](#)
Power Point presentation explaining how an early education teacher can create a transition folder for a child moving from one level to the next, either preschool into kindergarten or kindergarten into first grade. The presentation includes visual examples.

10. [Transition Folder Checklist](#)

A checklist of the most important items to include when creating a transition folder for children moving from preschool to kindergarten or kindergarten to first grade.

11. [Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants Through Four-Year-Old Children](#)

The Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants through Four-Year-Old Children describe goals for children from birth through four years old. This document includes appropriate infant and toddler developmental milestones, as well as learning standards for three-year-old children and learning standards for four-year-old children.

BEST PRACTICES SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN SENDING SETTINGS

Programs Sending Children to Kindergarten

1. [Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants Through Four-Year-Old Children](#)

The Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants through Four-Year-Old Children describe goals for children from birth through four years old. This document includes appropriate infant and toddler developmental milestones, as well as learning standards for - three-year-old children and learning standards for four-year-old children.

2. [Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children](#)

A manual prepared for use by administrators, counselors, teachers, and other authorized staff in the pre-kindergarten programs of Mississippi to be used as a guide in facilitating state or other funded pre-kindergarten programs such as federal, local, tuition-based, and philanthropically funded programs.

3. [Early Childhood Coordination Requirements in Every Student Succeeds Act: A Toolkit for State and Local Educational Agencies, Head Start Programs, and the Early Childhood Field](#)

A toolkit for state and local school districts, Head Start programs, and others in early education settings with resources and information designed to support the active engagement and participation of stakeholders in fulfilling the requirement of ESSA, including transition, collaboration, and coordination.

4. [Kindergarten Standards](#)

A link to the Mississippi Department of Education's College and Career Readiness Standards, including standards for children in kindergarten in the areas of Arts, Health, Language Arts, Math, Physical Education, Science, and Social Studies.

5. [High Quality Early Childhood Program Definition](#)

The National Association for the Education of Young Children's definition of a high-quality program includes "providing a safe, nurturing environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of young children while responding to the needs of families."

6. [Approved Pre-K Curricula \(2021\)](#)
Listing of curricula in the areas of math, English language arts, approaches to learning, social and emotional development, science, physical development, creative expression, and social studies for grades Pre-K3 and Pre-K4.
7. [Alignment Document for Early Learning Guidelines, Head Start Performance Standards, and MSDH Licensing Regulations for Child Care](#)
A crosswalk of the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines, Head Start performance standards, and the Mississippi licensing regulations for childcare.
8. [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment](#)
A link to the Mississippi Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, which when completed provides parents, teachers, and early childhood providers with a common understanding of what children know and can do upon entering school.
9. [Pre-K and Kindergarten Literacy Activities](#)
A listing of fun activities that can be done at home to help children become more successful in reading.
10. [Kindergarten Literacy Readiness Indicators](#)
A list of skills identified to reflect children’s readiness to meet the Mississippi kindergarten literacy expectations.
11. [Classroom Activities for Pre-Kindergarten Transition](#)
12. [Teacher Interpretation Guide for Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classroom of Four-Year-Old Children](#)
13. [Family Interpretation Guide for the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms of Four-Year-Old Children](#)

BEST PRACTICES SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN RECEIVING SETTINGS

Programs Receiving Children from Other Early Childhood Providers for Kindergarten

1. [District Considerations Guidance to Support Learning Acceleration in Early Childhood Classrooms](#)
Guidance to assist school districts to plan and think meaningfully about how to approach upcoming school years to provide the best paths for learning for children. This document offers considerations for summer and fall school innovations to extended day and community partnerships. Districts are encouraged to use these considerations when developing a plan to use federal funds to accelerate student learning due to COVID-19.
2. [Guidance to Support Learning Acceleration in Early Childhood Classrooms Webinar](#)
Link to an online presentation from the Mississippi Department of Education addressing how to use the guidance document “Supporting Learning Acceleration in Early Childhood Classrooms”.

3. [Early Childhood Coordination Requirements in Every Student Succeeds Act: A Toolkit for State and Local Educational Agencies, Head Start Programs, and the Early Childhood Field](#)

A toolkit for state and local school districts, Head Start programs, and others in early education settings with resources and information designed to support the active engagement and participation of stakeholders in fulfilling the requirement of ESSA, including transition, collaboration, and coordination.

4. [K-Readiness Assessment Next Steps](#)

A brief one-page document explaining the primary purpose of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: to improve the quality of classroom instruction and to use the results to establish a starting point for measuring future academic performance. The results are intended to aid districts, schools, and teachers in developing growth goals for students based on their individual needs.

5. [K-Readiness Literacy Readiness Indicators](#)

A list of skills identified to reflect children’s readiness to meet the Mississippi kindergarten literacy expectations.

6. [Pre-K and Kindergarten Literacy Activities](#)

A list of fun activities that can be done at home to help children become more successful in reading.

7. [Title I Pre-K Classrooms: A Step-By-Step Guide to Starting a Pre-K Classroom](#)

This document is an executive summary that provides a five-step guide to starting a Title I Pre-K classroom in a school district in Mississippi.

BEST PRACTICES SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN PRE-K TO KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION

1. [Family Engagement Calendar](#)

A link to the Mississippi Family Engagement Calendar, designed to assist family caregivers to encourage learning outside their children’s classroom and to be used as conversation starters to strengthen communication with children.

2. [A Family Guide for Back to School](#)

The purpose of this document is to assist families with the return to school as safely and objectively as possible following the outbreak of Covid-19. It will be helpful for families to be informed, prepared, and ask the right questions as their children begin the school year, and to limit worry and anxiety where there may be some concern.

3. [Back To School Resources](#)

A link bringing the viewer to many different resources that can be used by family caregivers to assist their children with getting ready for school. The link includes resources to videos for children and a list of fun and creative activities families can complete with their children.

4. [Questions Families May Have](#)
5. [Children’s Books about Transition to Kindergarten](#)
6. [Virtual Teaching and Learning Strategies for Early Childhood](#)
A document designed to help teachers and parents manage their use of online learning. How information is shared, and children are engaged using online supports requires adults to be flexible while keeping the goal of educating children with the same amount of diligence that would be used in a classroom. This document supports the state’s belief that teachers need not revise the philosophy of teaching because of virtual (online) learning, and instead adjust strategies to continue opportunities for students to discover, learn, and grow in all environments.
7. [The Twelve Days of Vroom Tips](#)
12 interesting activities family and caregivers can do with their children, making learning fun.
8. [Pre-K Family Enrichment Activities Theme: Conversations with Children](#)
Ideas to involve children in back-and-forth conversation while helping them to develop language. The ideas use everyday activities to help with opportunities to involve children in conversation.
9. [Pre-K Family Enrichment Activities Theme: Physical Science](#)
Resources and ideas families can use to help their children explore and understand basic ideas of science such as magnets, making predictions, and observing the world around them.
10. [Pre-K Family Enrichment Activities Theme: Earth and Space Science](#)
Resources and ideas families can use to help their children explore and understand basic ideas of earth and space science, such as rocks and stars.
11. [Shining the Light: Home Resources for Parents of Three-Year-Olds](#)
A document that provides fun learning activities and online links to resources for families and caregivers to do at home with their children that are three years of age.
12. [Shining the Light: Home Resources for Parents of Four-Year-Olds](#)
A document that provides fun learning activities and online links to resources for families and caregivers to do at home with their children that are four years of age.
13. [A Family Guide for Student Success: Pre-K](#)
The Guide offers an outline for families about what children are expected to learn at the end of their pre-kindergarten experiences. The Guide offers suggestions for families and caregivers to encourage children’s learning at home.
14. [Strong Readers Strong Leaders: Pre-K](#)
Web link to several resources, activities, and suggestions for families and caregivers to help support preschool-aged children build strong early reading (pre-literacy) skills.
15. [Strong Readers Strong Leaders: Kindergarten](#)
Web link to several resources, activities, and suggestions for families and caregivers to help support kindergarten-aged children build strong early reading (pre-literacy) skills.

16. [Supporting Students Learning at Home](#)

Ideas for families and caregivers to help their children with learning at home.

17. [Family Enrichment Activities](#)

A series of documents that contain ideas, activities, and links to resources to help families support their young children's learning at home and/or outside their early learning setting. Activities include books to read, math and reading ideas, vocabulary words, and YouTube suggestions.

- Welcome, New Friends
- My Family
- Our Community
- Life On a Farm
- From Jungle to Desert
- Earth and Sky
- Shadows and Reflections
- Make It Move

18. [MPB Classroom TV: Welcome, Friends Episodes](#)

Online link to 15 different Mississippi Public Broadcasting YouTube episodes created to help families and caregivers work with their young children and get them prepared to be successful in school. Episodes include such topics as: Why do farms have animals? What is a desert? How do living things grow? What is a friend? Many more topics are included in this interesting link.

RESOURCES

1. [Enhancing the Transition to Kindergarten Linking Children, Families, & Schools](#)

A manual and guide supporting children's transitions into kindergarten. An approach that suggests the importance of creating a network of connections that support children and families during the transition from preschool into kindergarten.

2. [NCEDL Transition to Kindergarten: Fact Sheet](#)

Two-page brief on ways schools can provide support to families and children as they move from preschool into kindergarten.

3. [Transition Bibliography](#)