

Lesson No 19 Smooth Transition

SUMMARY

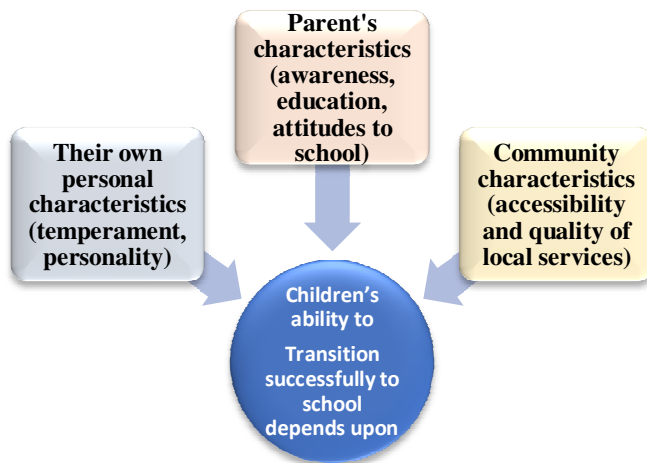
Between birth and the age of eight years, young children undergo various changes and transitions. Each child responds in a different manner to such challenges and deals with transitions initially from home to pre-primary school and then from pre-primary to primary school accordingly. A majority of children make successful transitions at different stages during their education. However, some children are more likely to find these changes to their daily routine more challenging compared with their peers. A smooth home to school transition is important because research has shown a link between poor transitions and less successful outcomes which may lead disengagement with schools and later education.

In this lesson, you learnt about smooth transition and school readiness.

UNDERSTANDING TRANSITION

- A transition is a process which refers to a period of change from one situation to another.
- Gradual changes and familiarization are helpful.
- Children manage transition best when adults provide support..

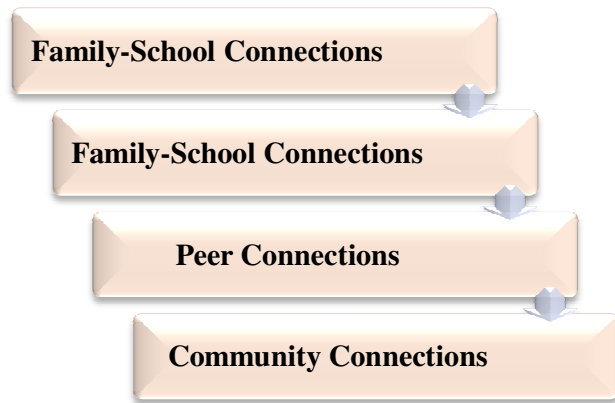
FACTORS IMPACTING TRANSITION



- Individual differences play a role in children's reactions to transition. While some children easily adjust to the new environment, others may need more time to adapt to the new environment.
- Building on children's prior and current practices
- Ensuring children have an active role in preparing for transitions, in partnership with families
- Assisting children to understand transitions, routines and practices of the new settings
- Helping children negotiate changes in status or identity

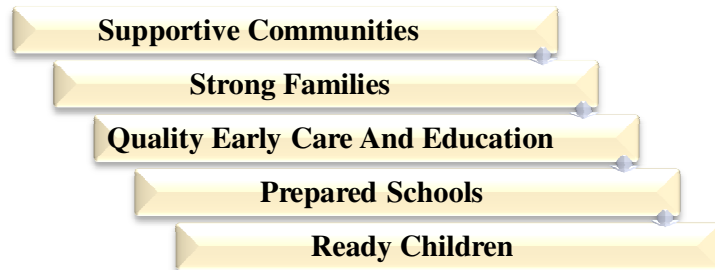
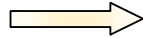
TRANSITION FROM HOME TO PRESCHOOL

Smooth transition is dependent on the following connections



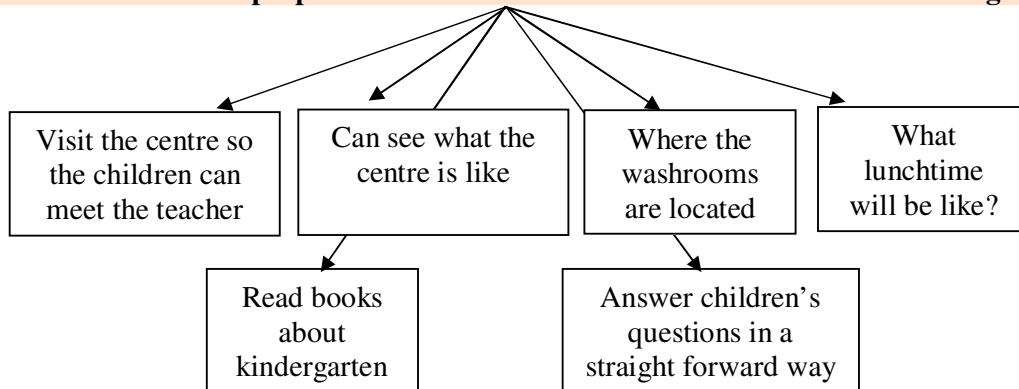
TRANSITION FROM HOME TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

The most effective way to prepare children to enter primary school, or any level of formal schooling, is to provide a dependable, strong support system. An ideal support system includes



TRANSITION ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Parents to prepare their children for ECCECentre with the following



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSITION

- Few days prior to the first day of school, school should offer orientation activities for newcomers and parents with arrangements as follows –
- Children to meet their class teacher and other staff (aides) prior to starting
- Parents to visit or spend time in a classroom
- Children and parents to be shown where other facilities such as Playground, Toilets, Drinking Water, In-Door Games in the school are located
- The parents could ask the teacher about school and classroom routines to include in the stories
- Practicing the skills needed at school such as packing and unpacking their bag, going to the toilet, fastening their clothing, washing their hands, unwrapping their food and opening lunch boxes and drink bottles.

BENEFITS OF FACILITATING SMOOTH TRANSITION

- Children will like school and look forward to going to school.
- Children will show steady growth in academic skills.
- Active participation of parents in their children's education
- Classroom environments will promote positive feelings for both teachers and children.
- Teachers, staff members, and families will value one another.
- School will celebrate cultural diversity in their communities
- Developmentally appropriate practices will be visible within the classroom

UNDERSTANDING READINESS

- School readiness is a multi-faceted phenomenon comprising child's development in the Physical/Health, Social and Emotional Domains, Language Acquisition, Literacy and Cognition.
- On the same side schools also need to be ready to meet the varied needs of children and their families.

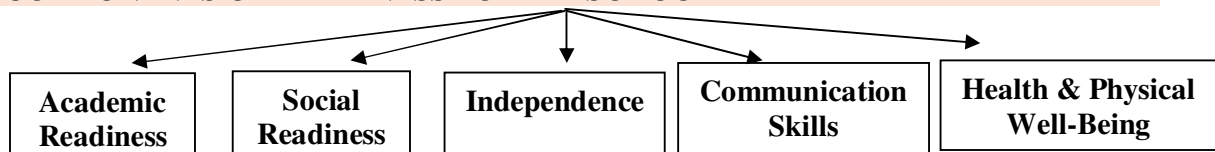
School readiness is identified as:

Demonstrating Readiness	Children demonstrate the foundational skills and behaviors
Approaching Readiness	Children exhibit some of the foundational skills and behaviors
Emerging Readiness	Children display minimal foundational skills and behaviors
Approaches To Learning	To what extent do children show curiosity, enthusiasm and persistence toward learning tasks?
Cognition and General Knowledge	Do children have basic knowledge about the world around them?
Language Development	To what extent do children use verbal and nonverbal skills to convey meaning and understanding?
Physical Well-Being	Are children growing and developing age appropriate?
Social and Emotional Development	Do children interact well with others and communicate their feelings in appropriate ways?

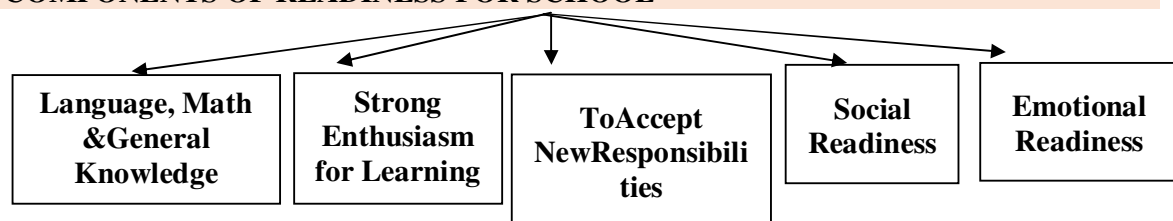
Some expected characteristics that should be displayed by school-ready children are:

- Independent in toileting
- Able to dress themselves
- Understands expected levels of behavior
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Can take turns and share
- Can sit still for a short period
- Can separate from parents/caregivers

COMPONENTS OF READINESS FOR PRESCHOOL



COMPONENTS OF READINESS FOR SCHOOL



ROLE OF PARENTS, SCHOOLS, TEACHERS AND OTHER CAREGIVERS

Ready Parents/Families: their Role	To provide children with steady and supportive relationships, and a safe and joyful environment to generate curiosity and excitement about learning.
Ready Communities: their Role	Communities play a crucial role in readying the children by developing early childhood care and education facilities.
Ready Schools: their Role	To organize parent education workshops and work with parents, crèche workers and other community institutions and members to prepare children for pre-primary school.
Ready Teachers and other Workforce: their Role	To have training and good understanding of a quality programme and children's developmental characteristics. Upgrading their skills and competencies through in-service training programmes, workshops and refresher courses. Could seek the help of necessary support services.

PLANNING AND DESIGNING ACTIVITIES FOR DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OF SCHOOL READINESS

The teacher should plan simple and interesting activities to promote development in each domain. Some exemplar activities in different domains of development are –

Domain	Activities
Language Development	Conversation (Free And Guided), Storytelling, Rhymes, Role Play, Dramatics
Cognitive Development	Solving Riddles, Recognizing, Recalling, Classification
Reading Readiness	Visual Discrimination, Sound Discrimination, Observation Skill & Memory, Development of Vocabulary
Writing Readiness	Clay Modeling, Colouring within Enclosed Space/Picture, Drawing, Tracing, Joining Dots, Drawing Zig-Zag; Straight Lines
Number Readiness	Sequential Thinking, Problem Solving, Pre-Number Concept - Big-Small, Tall- Short, More-Less, Thick-Thin, Far-Near, Wide-Narrow, Low-High, Before-After etc.
Physical-Motor Development	Indoor and Outdoor Games to Promote Children's Health and Physical Development
Creative and Aesthetic Development	Colouring and Drawing, Crafts, Paper Tearing and Pasting, Pasting Leaves, Making Pictures on Wet Ground or Drawing With Chalk

EVALUATE YOURSELF

- Q1.** What do you understand by the term transition and readiness? Also differentiate between pre-primary readiness and school readiness.
- Q2.** Describe the role of parents, school, teachers and other caregivers in the smooth transition of children from home to preschool/school.

PRACTICE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The success of any activity depends on how well it is prepared and implemented. Plan an activity each for the different components of school readiness.