**Ideas for Preschool Teachers**

● Visit the elementary school and pay close attention to details. Identify skills needed for

success, both academically and socially.

● Invite a kindergarten teacher to visit your program and explain what happens in

kindergarten and answer questions from the children.

● Make a list of children’s ideas about what kindergarten will be like.

● Make a bulletin board about kindergarten with photographs and comments of the

children.

● Write and illustrate a class book about children’s and teachers’ feelings about going to

kindergarten.

● Encourage parent involvement in home and preschool.

● Empower parents to act as advocates of their children. Parent meetings and newsletters

can help parents learn how to work with school staff, learn about school opportunities,

and prepare their child at home for kindergarten.

**Ideas for Elementary Schools**

● Invite preschool teachers to visit and discuss what students need to know and be able to

do when they come to kindergarten.

● Initiate conversations and collaborate with preschool teachers, planning ahead to meet

specific student needs.

● Invite preschool students to visit on a school day and see what kindergarten is like. This

could also include their parents.

● Maintain a welcoming environment and lay the foundation for a positive relationship with

parents.

● Invite parents to a series of introductory meetings. Have open discussions about

expectations and philosophy. Overview services available. Tour the school. Invite

parents to visit a kindergarten class during the day.

● Provide quality parent engagement activities to help them become engaged in the

school quickly.

**Ideas for Elementary Schools**

● Discuss transition with students, always in an upbeat and encouraging manner

● Collaborate with middle school staff to discuss academic and social expectations as well

as student needs

● Answer student questions about middle school honestly

● Invite middle school staff to talk to students prior to the transition

● Schedule a “field trip” to tour the middle school

● Invite current middle school students to come back and talk to elementary students

about their transition experiences

● Host student and parent meetings to talk about the differences and similarities between

elementary and middle school

● Start a pen pal system where students in 5th and 6th grades write to each other about

middle school

Ideas for Middle Schools

● Provide a shadowing experience in which one fifth grader spends the day with a sixth

grader and reports back to class about the observations

● Provide school tours led by middle school students

● Hold parent and student meetings and discuss the differences between elementary and

middle school

● Hold open house activities which include: opening lockers, practicing lunchroom

procedures, walking through a daily schedule

● Host a meeting between middle school counselors and elementary feeder counselors to

share information about students and collaborate on how to improve the middle school

transition

● Host meetings with parents and students to discuss their questions and concerns

● Host parent to parent meetings where they can discuss their concerns and network with

other parents; have parents of current middle school students help lead these meetings

● Send a welcome letter to students during the summer congratulating them on

transitioning to middle school and including dates of upcoming transition events

● Have staff wear “Ask Me” badges to let students know that it is acceptable to ask

questions, and to let them know who to ask during the first weeks of school

● Have new students come to school one day before returning students to get information,

practice routines, and meet teachers

● Start a pen pal system where students in 5th and 6th grades write to each other about

middle school

● Develop activities where students can socialize before, during, and after transition, such

as community service projects, clubs, and sports

● Establish peer-helpers, mentors, or ambassadors to help students who struggle with

transitions

● Assign students to families/teams/homerooms to build a sense of belonging with

opportunities for team building and socializing

● Periodically survey students to see what concerns they still have and address these

through activities and meetings

● Continue to provide activities that focus on communications between parents and

students, parents and school

● Actively encourage every student to be a part of an extracurricular activity