

HOPE BUILDERS

*Elevating Dreams,
Transforming Realities*

Friday, April 4, 2025
Columbus, Ohio

Tools for Supporting Families and Children Through the Kindergarten Transition

April 4th, 2025



Ohio Statewide

Family Engagement Center



Professional Learning

— at The Ohio State University

Welcome!

Grounding Discussion



Kindergarten Transition
Practices and Principles



A New Tool:
Kindergarten Transition Plan



Try it out! & Reflection



Session Goal!

Refresh & add to your
kindergarten transition
toolbox!



The Big Little Leap...



42%

of children entering kindergarten do not have previous experience in a 'school-like' setting.

More than 70% of *all* children experience kindergarten transition difficulties

“...kindergarten transition difficulties that children experienced functioned independently and impacted their achievements regardless of prior academic and social-behavioral competencies brought into kindergarten.”

Despite research and policy endorsement of kindergarten transition practices, collaboration across preschool and elementary school is challenging.

The Big Little Leap...



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“

“...kindergarten transition difficulties that

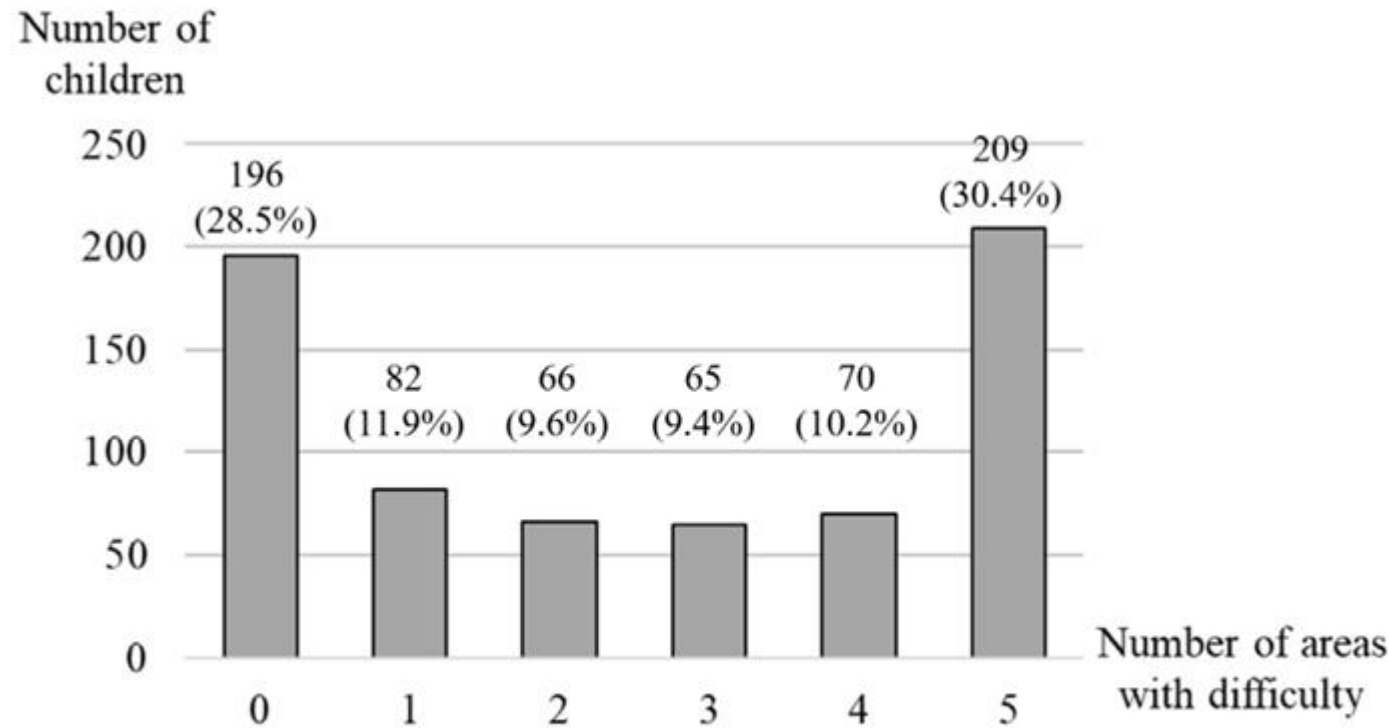


Fig. 1. Number of areas (out of five total areas) in which kindergarten-transition challenges were reported by the teachers.

research and endorsement of a ten transition collaboration between preschool and elementary school is challenging.

Join us on Mentimeter!
Use code 2379 8954



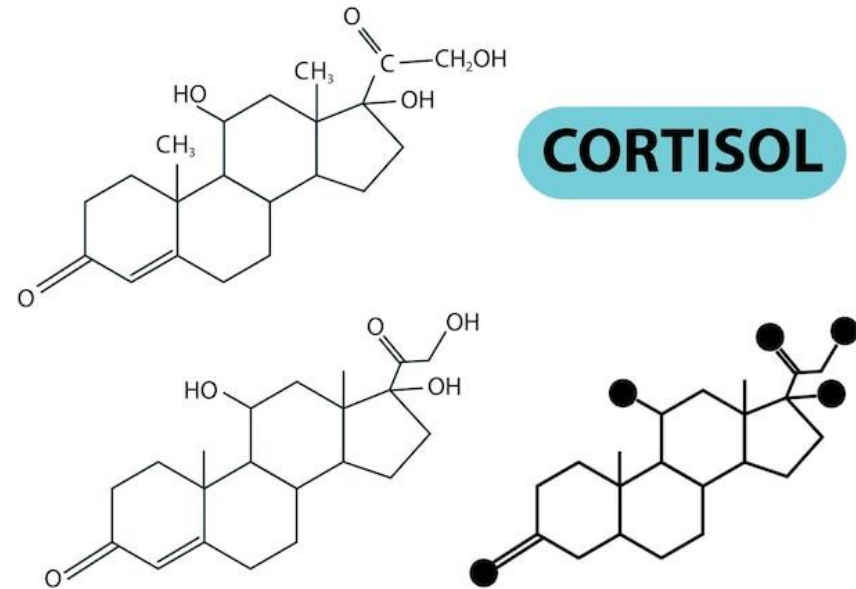
Please share up to 3 words or short phrases!

**What comes up for
me when we start
to talk about the
kindergarten
transition is...**

What else?

- ☐ How did the transition into kindergarten go for you and your child? Or for a family you have mentored?
- ☐ What **difficulties** came up?

Children with disabilities often experience more intense and varied transition challenges, requiring more specialized services and supports.



What are Kindergarten Transition Practices?

- **Definition:** Specific activities, procedures, or actions that schools, teachers, and families implement to support children and families during the transition to kindergarten.



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**Rank the following
transition practices
in order of their
effectiveness...**

What else?

- ☐ What **practices or strategies** have you used yourself or with a mentee to support a child through the kindergarten transition?
- ☐ What has been **successful** for you?

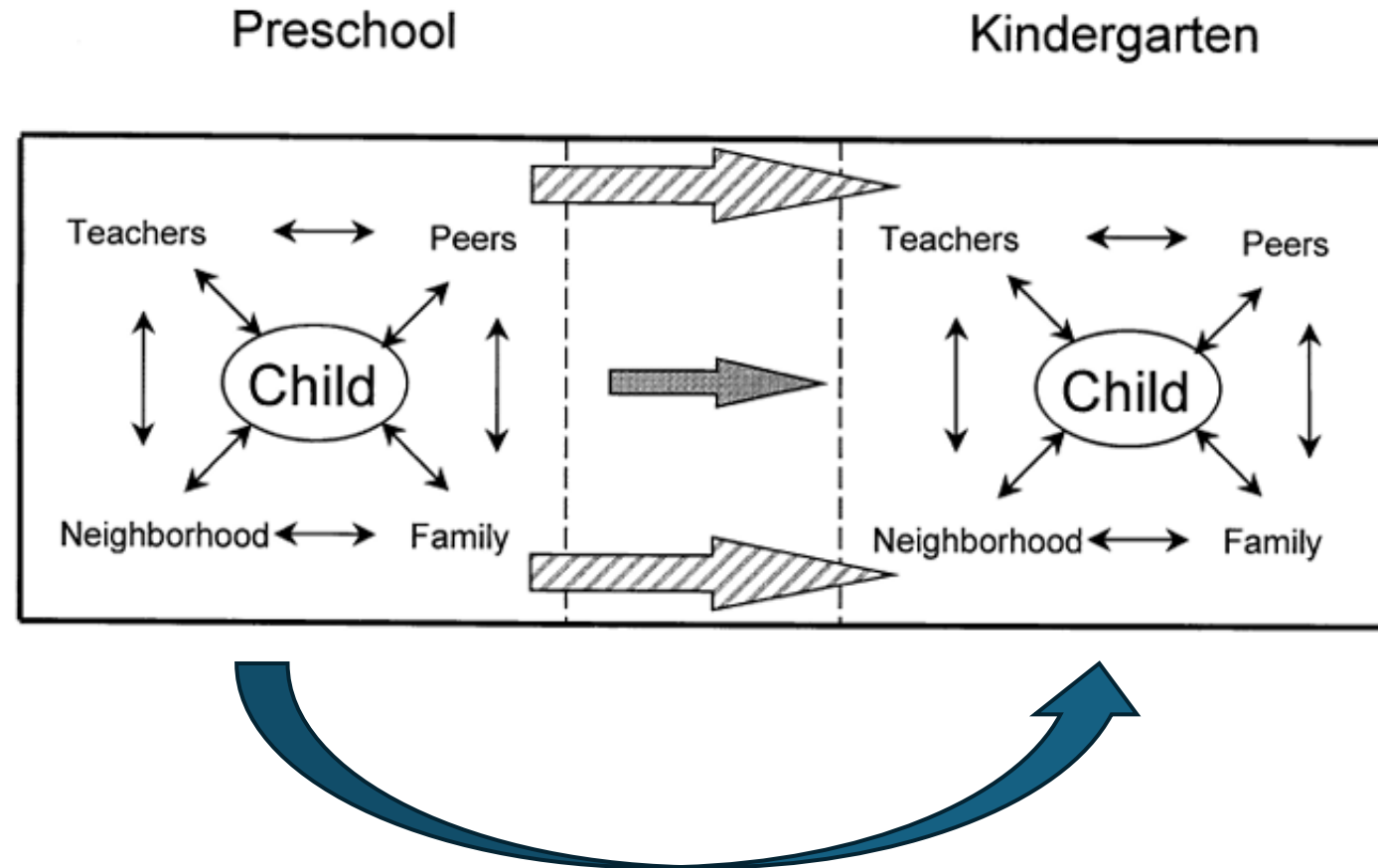


High-intensity transition practices are especially helpful!

Real-World Challenges:

- Limited communication & collaboration (low-intensity practices)
- Late teacher assignment
- Ecological differences in PreK vs. K

Ecological Differences: PreK vs. K



5 Guiding Principles for the Kindergarten Transition

1. Foster Relationships as Resources
2. Promote Continuity from PreK to K
3. Focus on Family Strengths
4. Tailor Practices to Individual Needs
5. Form Collaborative Relationships





The Kindergarten Transition Plan

- Adapted from Sands & Meadan (2022), this plan:
 - Provides information about the child, their family, **strengths**, and **needs**
 - Identifies the child's **Kindergarten Transition Planning Team**
 - Sets up a **Transition Plan** and a **Communication Plan**



Meet Barry!

- Bartholomew (Barry) is 4 and a half years old, and he is preparing to transition into his kindergarten in the fall.
- Despite living with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and ASD, he embraces life with determination and a heart full of love. Barry's smile lights up every room!
- Barry thrives with the right supports to meet his unique needs, showcasing his incredible capacity for growth and learning.

Let's see **Barry's Kindergarten Transition Plan!**



Try it out!



- Think of your child or a child and family you have worked with.
- Start to draft a plan for them...
- Report out experience
 - *We want your feedback!*

Final Thoughts

- **The Kindergarten Transition Plan**
 - The family may drive the Kindergarten Transition Plan, its creation and communication
 - Integrate with the IEP process in PreK
- ***We transition a family, not just one child!***





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