

Table of Contents

Introduction	7
-------------------------------	----------

Chapter 1: General Principles and Techniques11

Develop Consistency in the Daily Flow of Activities	11
Invent and Use Rituals	12
Make Your Classroom Space Work for You	12
Tell Children What’s Going to Happen Next	12
Offer Rehearsals	13
Create Nonverbal Signals	13
Use a Pet Puppet	13
Entice Rather Than Command	14
Just Do It	14
Match Children’s Development	15
Help Children Re-Enter the Group	15

Chapter 2: Center Transitions17

Entering Childcare	17
Primary Caregivers	22
Continuity of Care	23
The Hardest Transition—Moving From the Infant Room to the Toddler Room	24
Moving from the Toddler Room to Preschool	27
Transitions When a Child Leaves the Program	28
Staff Transitions	29
Staff Changes	30
Weekend-to-Monday Transition	31

Chapter 3: Daily Transitions With Infants33

Individualize Schedules	33
Morning Separation From Parent	35
Transitions Throughout the Day	39
Diapering	42
Playtime	43
Some Developmental Transitions	48
Going Outside	50
Sleeping	52
Pick-Up Time	55
When the Child’s Routine Changes	57

Chapter 4: Daily Transitions With Toddlers59

Morning Separation	60
Transitional Objects	68
Establishing the Daily Schedule	72
Morning Gathering Time	73
Snack Time	75
The Transition Into Playtime	77
Play Entry Skills	79
Toddler Friendships	82
Moving From One Play Activity to Another	86
Sharing and Taking Turns	86
Cleanup Time	92
Circle Time	95
Story Time	97
Diapering	100
Toilet Learning	102
Outside Time	105
Hand Washing	110
Lunchtime	112
Transition From Lunch to Nap	115
Nap Time	116
The Afternoon	120
Behavior Transitions	121
Dealing With Tantrums	123
Bad-Weather Activities	124
End of the Day	126
Reunions With Parents	128

Chapter 5: Staff Training for Successful Transitions . . .133

Personalize	133
Nonverbal Communication	133
Feding Infants	134
Rituals	134
Late Afternoon or Bad Weather Fun	135
The Problem Hat Game	135
Learning Transtion Songs	135

Appendix137

Developmental Notes	138
How to Set Up a Positive Learning Environment	148
Setting Up the Outdoor Environment	153
Recommended Books	157

Index161