



[IDOE Kindergarten Transition Values:](#)
How Do They Work in First Steps?
Concrete examples of LEADERSHIP



Before the transition meeting:

- Take initiative to be knowledgeable about community program options
- Upon written consent of a family, invite program representatives to the transition meeting.
- Prepare all attendees for what to expect. Encourage families to compose a [list of questions](#) they may have for a program (such as if financial aid is available). Prepare program representatives by sharing what options the family is considering and why as well as cultural preferences expressed by the family (such as taking shoes off when entering a home, wearing a mask, or using culturally appropriate eye contact).

During the transition meeting:

- Set the stage-- encourage families to think long term. “How do you envision your child as an adult? What do you want their life to look like? What skills would you like them to have? Which of these options will help you move toward that vision?”
- Give accurate information regarding programs that could support their child’s development, even if that program was not able to send a representative to the meeting.
- Do not “play favorites”. On the rare event that inappropriate comments are made about another program or attendee, guide the conversation toward the positive. “It sounds like there have been some negative past experiences. Thank you for letting us know so we can work through those concerns and make this a better experience for your child and family. Every person here is genuinely invested in your child and wants to see them succeed.”

After the transition meeting:

- Mentor families. It is always a family's first experience—whether it's their first time in a preschool setting or their first time getting 2 kids on the bus. Follow up with families on how they feel about the transition.
- With consent, connect families who have gone through similar experiences. [Indiana Family to Family](#) is a strong resource for this.
- Ensure everyone has all the necessary documentation so no child has a gap in services (including Blind, Low Vision, Deaf, and Hard of Hearing services).



Ways to Embrace Everyone

- “How can I help you feel comfortable with this transition? Have you considered connecting with other families who have children with disabilities?”
- Is there anything you'd like me to relay to program representatives about your family and culture before they come?