



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

Concrete examples of RESPECT

Before transition:

- Assume all families want what is best for their children. Believe they are the experts in their own lives and can make their own choices
- Let go of the assumption that you know what a family would want, what they could access, and what would be a good fit for them.
- Invite interpreters as needed. One of the most important ways to show respect for a family is to give information in their native language.



During transition

- Acknowledge and Include siblings. Ask questions such as, “What do you think your brother/sister does well?” “If someone wanted to be their friend, what should they do?”
- Ask a family about their unique family culture. “Where would you like us to sit?” “Would you like us to take off our shoes?” “Would you like us to wear a mask?”
- Give the family time to introduce their child as a member of the team. The Service Coordinator facilitates the conversation, but the family should lead it.

After transition

- Accept the family’s choice, even if the path isn’t the one you would have chosen for the child. Every family has unique values and will choose their path based on those values and their own life circumstances.
- Let a family know where they are in the process. Being transparent in communications with other programs (such as cc’ing a family in an email to an LEA) can go a long way to building trust.
- Transitions can be a confusing time for families, and some may need an extra reminder to turn in paperwork. Be intentionally gentle in your communications. “I know life can be hectic with little ones-- I am just checking in to see if you were able to fill out that application, or if you needed a new one.”

Ways to Embrace Everyone

“Is there anything about your family’s religion and/or value system that you think would be important to share with these programs?”

