



Online Newsletter

Back To School!

Sept. 2009

Back to school time often means changes for children and families: the first day of kindergarten or first grade; new preschools or child care settings; new classrooms and new teachers. Making smooth transitions between home, programs and schools can help children feel good about themselves and teach them to trust other adults and children. Helping children adapt to new situations can ease parents' minds and give them a chance to become involved in their children's education.

Transitions are exciting opportunities for children to learn and grow. Parents and early childhood professionals share a role in making children feel safe and secure as they move to new educational settings. Of course, such milestones in children's lives can cause anxiety, too. Strengthening the ties between programs and families will help create smooth transitions for adults and children both.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

1. Be enthusiastic about the upcoming change. If you are excited and confident, your child will be, too.
2. Prepare yourself. Take note of how your child reacts to separation. If possible, visit the new setting with your child. Introduce your child to the new teacher.
3. Arrange a playdate with another child from the program, preferably one-on-one, so that your child will see a familiar face when she walks in.
4. Start daily routines that will add to continuity. Let your child become involved with packing lunch or laying out clothes.
5. Put aside extra time, particularly on the first day, for chatting and commenting together. But remember not to prolong the good-bye.
6. Always say good-bye to your child. Be firm, but friendly about separating.
7. At day's end just focus on being a parent!

OUR ONLINE STORE!!!

Webinars & Meetings

Families Together

Has a brand new online store!

Make sure you check it out!

One of the items for sale is Chris Curry's CD's! These are the songs we've sung at the weekends and ones you may have never heard!

Shop.familiestogether.org

We are working on new ways of keeping in touch and serving our families, one of those ways is with our online meetings and webinars. We are very excited about these because no one has to travel to get together!

We've done 1 webinar with Doug Pierce on guardianship. It was great. Another one is being planned for Sept. on Organizing Your House! You will be getting more information about this!

We want these to be of interest to you, so we want you to please let us know of topics you would like. Please email or call us with your ideas and suggestions!

Families Together for People with Disabilities-213B Smith Gym Box 641410-Pullman, WA 99164
Toll Free 1 866 326 4864 Email ftpd@familiestogether.org