

Transition



Transition times are very difficult for young children as they become engrossed in an activity and have very little concept of time. If we ask them to do something else, they often think they will never be able to return to their favourite activity!

What are the common difficulties?

- Refusing to join in at transition times or follow instructions given by staff

Why do transition difficulties occur?

- Children are engaged in what they are doing and do not want to stop!
- There may be receptive language difficulties or the child may have English as an Additional Language and therefore cannot understand the staff request
- Transition times are very slow and children are bored
- Staff are not clear about their roles at transition times
- Staff do not use specific praise with children who are following their direction



How can we help?

- Display a visual timetable in each room so children know what is happening throughout the session
- Always give children a warning before an activity change. Use a large sand-timer
- Consider playing music to warn children that an activity is going to end soon
- Introduce "tidying up" music or "putting on coats" music
- Introduce songs that you sing at transition times: (sung to the tune of The Farmer's in the den)

It's time to tidy up

It's time to tidy up

Ee-ay-alley-oh

It's time to tidy up

Or it's time to ~ wash our hands,

~ listen to a story,

~ sing some songs,

~ go outside)

- Be aware that some children will need instructions given on an individual basis and you will need to show them what they need to do
- Make sure that your session routine meets the needs of all the children. If particular transition times are very difficult, perhaps you need to re-plan parts of the session