

SONGS & ACTIVITIES FOR TRANSITION TIMES

What do children do while they are waiting for an open sink to wash their hands? What do children do after they have washed their hands and are waiting for their friends to wash their hands? Hand washing can take between 8-10 minutes of your day (there are only so many sinks available!). Plan for that time! It's a great time to perhaps have a song can where you have index cards with the names of the children's favorite songs. Pull one out and sing! Or play a transitional game with children wash their hands.

Hand Washing Song (tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, Wash, Wash your hands,
Wash the germs away,
Wash, Wash, Wash your hands,
Wash them everyday!

While Going Outside (tune: The Farmer in the Dell)

It's fun to play outside.
It's fun to play outside.
With all the other boys and girls
It's fun to play outside.

Tong Time!

Use small tongs for clean-up time. Put out a basket of tongs. Once they each have a pair, start singing favorite songs while everyone uses them to pick up toys and put them away. For colored blocks, you can have the children name the color of the block as they drop in in the container!

We're Putting Our Toys Away (tune: The Farmer in the Dell)

We're putting our toys away.
We hope it won't take all day.
To have more fun, we'll get it all done,
We're putting our toys away!

Tidy Up (tune: Jingle Bells)

Tidy up, tidy up, put the toys away.
Tidy up, tidy up, we're finished for today.
Tidy up, tidy up, put the toys away.
For we'll get them, out again, the next time that we play!

There are many transitional activities you can do during predictable transition times!
Here are some to get you started:

Circle Time Transition Fun!

For transitions and for children struggling to sit still, I have the children act out “positional” words. Say "Shake your hands **above** you. Shake your hands **behind** you. Shake your hands **under** you. (that is a favorite—a good time to laugh!).

Or have the children jump up and down and count to a certain number. This helps to get the wiggles out and practice counting.

You can also have the children touch parts of their body: "Touch your nose, elbow, ear" etc. It's fun to do it in slow motion and also fast.

Song (or chant this) for circle time

(tune: Did You Ever See a Lassie)

Let's sit for story, for story, for story,

Let's sit for story,

Please come sit with me.

(Name) is at story, at story, at story,

(Name) is at story, he came to sit with me.

What's Missing?

Bring 5 or 6 items with you. Show them to the children. They all close their eyes (or you cover the items with a paper towel!) and remove one item. The children open their eyes and as a group, say what's missing. Do this with 2 items, and then send a set amount of children to wash their hands. Continue playing the game until all the children have washed hands and had a turn. Place these items in a clear, Ziploc baggie and write on the baggie “WHAT'S MISSING”

I Spy

Of course! I Spy with my little eye, someone wearing a shirt that has Mario on it. Who is that? Yes, it's Joey! I Spy.....etc! Write different ideas for I Spy games on a large index card (so you don't run out of ideas!) such as “shoes, sneakers, shirt colors, hair color, eye color, square items, circle items, etc.).

Moving from One Area to Another

To help transition from A to B inside the classroom (or elsewhere), throw a rope (about 10 ft) from point A to point B. Tell the kids, “We're walking on the bridge over hot lava (or a swamp filled with alligators, etc.). They really go along with balancing and getting to the other side without falling off the bridge. Point B is the "safe" zone.

Moving from Inside to Outside (and back)

For children who do not wish to hold hands as you go outside or back inside, talk about what you see along the way. For example, “I see a big white cloud.” “I see a bird flying high.” “I see a green door.” Ask the child what they see—you'd be surprised at how many little things there are to notice along the way!