

Moving Up a Classroom — Transition Plan

Room transitions (infants→toddlers, toddlers→2s, etc.) are a mini restart. Use this to prep your child and set expectations with the center.

2–4 weeks before the move — questions for your center

- Confirmed move date and new lead teacher's name
- New classroom ratio and group size
- How many transition visits before the full move
- Daily schedule differences (nap times, meals, outdoor time)
- Any new supplies needed (cot sheet, cup type, shoes for playground)
- How communication will change (new app group, new daily sheet)
- How they'll communicate the first week's adjustment

1–2 weeks before — at home

- Talk about the new room by name and teacher by name
- Read a 'moving up' book together
- Adjust nap and meal times toward the new schedule if different
- Practice new skills the room expects (open cup, self-feeding, shoes on/off)
- Pack any new supplies, labeled
- Take a photo in the new classroom during a visit — put on the fridge

Transition-visit days

- Ask for at least 2–3 short visits before the full move
- Send a familiar lovey or comfort item
- Keep your drop-off ritual identical
- Ask new teacher for one specific observation at pickup

First week in the new room

- Expect regression: sleep, appetite, clinginess, potty accidents
- Extra-early bedtime; keep evenings calm
- Same drop-off routine, every day
- Don't over-question — one specific question at pickup
- Send a family photo for the new cubby

Check in with the new teacher at the end of week 1

- How is my child doing at drop-off after 5–10 minutes?
- How are they eating and napping?
- Are they connecting with any peers or the teachers?
- Anything I can reinforce at home?

Green flags by end of week 2

- Recovers from drop-off within 10 minutes
- Naps at least partially in the new room
- Mentions a new teacher or friend by name
- Sleeping hard at night (normal — lots of new input)

Talk to the director if

- Inconsolable at drop-off for a full week or more
- Ratios in the new room don't match what was promised
- Communication has dropped off with the new teacher
- Regression worsens instead of settling by end of week 2