Head Start and GSRPTransition Activity Suggestions

**Ideas for Lesson Plans**

**Teaching Staff**

1. Go to the local schools early in the fall and introduce yourself to the kindergarten teachers and principal or host a meet-and-greet for elementary staff and Head Start staff.
2. Share your Head Start newsletter with the local school.
3. Request to be on the email list for the local elementary to get updates about events or to get the school newsletter. Keep parents apprised of relevant events/activities.
4. Arrange to visit the local kindergarten classrooms early in the year. Schedule this visit on a planning day or before preschool starts if possible. This peer visit will give Head Start teachers a sense of what kindergarten children are doing at the beginning of the school year.
5. Invite kindergarten teachers and principals to visit your Head Start classroom.
6. After checking with the principal, invite other school staff to visit your classroom (bus drivers, cooks, custodian, playground aide).
7. Update the *Transition Questions* (f/forms/u/transition/question) as information changes or is available.
8. Inform and invite local teachers, principals, or parents to any Head Start activities that may be appropriate.
9. Share professional training/development opportunities with the local teachers.
10. Increase the visibility of Head Start by serving on public school committees and other relevant community committees.
11. Collaborate with the local public school to host events when appropriate.
12. Support families with extra transition visits to local schools (visits to the kindergarten teacher, visits with the school principal etc).
13. Display pictures of the local elementary school(s) along with the preschool with the names/pictures of the children who will be going to each the following year (returning children listed under the preschool, kindergarteners under the elementary).
14. Take pictures of the kindergarten teachers, the school, the kindergarten classrooms, cooks etc. Display these in the classroom. Talk about who and what is in the pictures during small group or as a daily transition activity.
15. Arrange a trip to the local kindergarten classroom. Remember to ask about letting the children meet the cook, get on the “big” bus or any other activity.
16. If possible, tape a video of a local kindergarten classroom in action. Show the video periodically encouraging children to talk about what they are seeing.
17. Complete transition responsibilities as they relate to the teaching staff job requirements/description.

**Lesson Plan Ideas**

1. Do a study on your local school or aspects of the school children are interested in.
2. Set up “school” in your dramatic play area using items or materials you know are used at the local public school.
3. Set up a “school cafeteria” in the dramatic play area.
4. Make a school bus out of a large cardboard box. Let the children paint and decorate the box.
5. Put “school” props in the block area (buses, people etc).
6. Let the children practice carrying food or other items on “school” trays. This can be done in small groups or as a daily transition activity. This can also be done during meal time by setting up the food at a table and having the children go through a line.
7. Using plastic food and empty boxes let the children practice packing a brown bag lunch choosing nutritious foods. This can be done in dramatic play, as a small group activity or as a daily transition activity.

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