

Transition Policy (to LRSH from home and to Kindergarten from LRSH)

To Little Red Schoolhouse from Home:

When welcoming a family to Little Red, it is our first priority to make the whole family feel comfortable, safe and positive about leaving their child(ren) with us. We strive to form strong relationships with both the child(ren) and family. With that being said, we have developed a “transition plan” for the children that are transitioning from home into LRSH.

- Upon accepting a spot at Little Red, it is immediately recommended and encouraged that one parent brings in the child (at least) once before his/her start date to visit the room and become acquainted with the environment. We usually suggest that the parent(s) plan on staying about 2 hours with the child for this visit.
- Once the child(ren) has officially started, we then ask that the first two (at least) days are only about 5-6 hours long. This helps the child become more familiar with the routine and environment and is proven to make transitions smoother. We find it beneficial that the child does not stay through nap the first couple of days. Therefore, we will reach out to the parents and suggest the time of pick-up for their child(ren) based on the nap schedule in the room.
- As the child(ren) becomes more comfortable in the room, our teachers will keep in communication with the parent(s) and encourage them to leave them longer at school. A primary teacher will be ‘assigned’ to each child to better fulfill each child’s individual needs and design a “portfolio” just for that child. That portfolio will be displayed and explained at each parent/teacher conference (also done with the primary teacher), as well as available to “check out” at any time while the child is enrolled!

We have found that with having a “transitory period” as well as a primary teacher helps create that firm bond that we like to build.

From Little Red Schoolhouse to Kindergarten:

Saying goodbye each year to the “Pre-Kindergarten Class” is always the saddest yet most rewarding day for the teachers and administration at Little Red. We continuously work hard to ensure that each child is ready and looking forward to spreading their wings and enter Kindergarten. However, we know that change can be hard, especially for some children that have been with us every day beginning at 8 weeks of age. Therefore, we have developed a plan to help with this transition.

- Each Spring we hold a second Parent/Teacher Conference (another one is offered in the Fall). This is designed for the parents and teachers to sit down and look through the children’s work, goals and look at where the child is “developmentally” in areas like Math, Literacy, Problem Solving, Reading, Gross Motor, and Fine Motor.
 - o We use an assessment tool called “Teaching Strategies; Gold” to assess the children within both our Brown Bear and Black Bear classrooms (preschool classrooms). To



- find out more Information about the “Gold” assessment tool, please see the Front Desk.
- During the conferences the parents are also given a transition form that was developed by a team of Early Childhood Professionals within Preschools and local Public Schools around the County. These forms are specifically designed to help the process of “getting to know” the child and family. The forms “interview” the family and the child’s current caregivers, and then are given to the school of which the child is assigned.
 - Another “helper” in the transition process is a “visit” to a Kindergarten classroom. We work closely with the Public Schools in the area and schedule a visit for the pre-kindergarteners to go to at least one classroom in the area! As you can imagine, this provides the teachers with great information about where the child is at developmentally, and also allows them to see what some “goals” may be from the parents.

