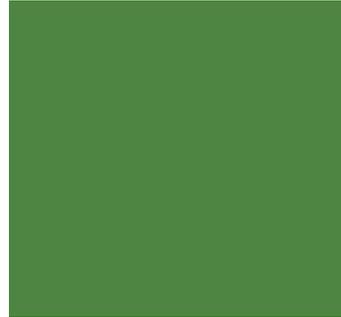




Using Music for Children's Learning and Growth



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Every day is filled with transitions, routines, and activities, many of which are repeated throughout the day. For many children – both those with and without disabilities – transitioning from one activity to the next can be a challenge. Providing structure, predictability, and consistency allows children to manage daily transitions and routines successfully, as expectations are clearly outlined to the child and ideally repeated by everyone in the same manner. Music and sounds can signal and structure transitions and routines. Music also can convey a message or a sequence of steps that needs to be memorized and recalled in different situations.

Typical Preschool Schedule

Time	Activity
7:30-9 a.m.	Arrival time
9:00-9:15 a.m.	Clean up time
9:15-9:30 a.m.	Circle time
9:30-10 a.m.	Breakfast
10-11:30 a.m.	Free choice/structured play
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Playground time
12:30-1 p.m.	Lunch
1:30-4:30 p.m.	Naptime
4-4:30 p.m.	Snack time
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Playground time/ family pick up

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Musical Transitions

Transition songs, making up new lyrics to a familiar tune, or using an instrument to cue a certain behavior are good ways to announce changes and help prepare children for an upcoming activity. When singing a transition song

- Sing directly to the child
- Model the task at hand
- If needed, give physical prompts
- Have next activity ready or arrive at the appropriate location when transition song ends
- Use songs across different environments
- Have everyone use the same song who works with the child

When using sound cues, pair signal immediately and repeatedly with action. Let children take an active part in activating the sound cues themselves. Pair sound cues with picture symbols if children use them.

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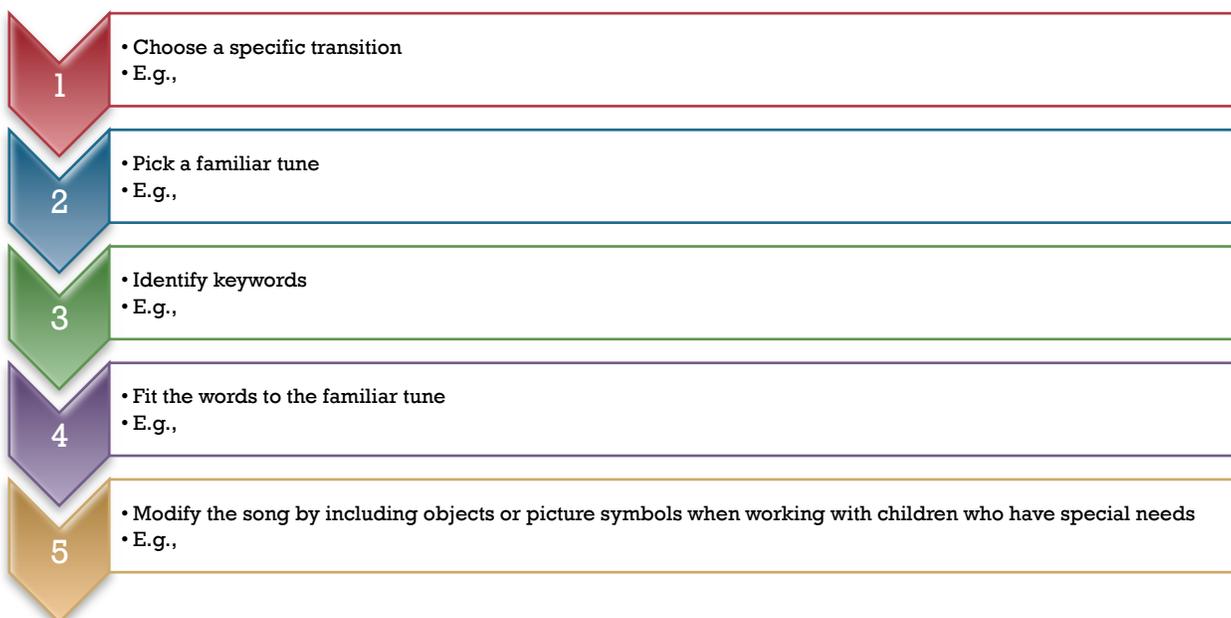
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Create Your Own
Transition Song



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