



**"Please don't stop the music"**

**Activities Songbook**



Vickey M. Burton, MEd  
Texas Registry Speaker #1180  
502 Sunrise Canyon #9209  
Universal City, TX 78148

## What are Transitions?

Transitions are those times in the classroom schedule when teachers and children pass from one place or one activity to another. Transitions do occur many times during the day helping children learn schedules and what to expect next. Choose a typical day in your program and create a detailed list of activities. Think about how many times a day that you move your children from one activity to the next. From outdoor play to hand washing, to snack time and then to circle time, and so on.

To make transitions meaningful and fun, think of transition songs for early childhood to sing where they can be entertaining as well as productive. Many teachers find it helpful to be prepared with a list of appropriate songs and chants for each movement in the classroom. You may want to give a five-minute warning which may help the children finish activities by alerting them to the reason for change. Then it's time to start singing.

You may wish to keep the same songs for each transition for a while since repetition helps children learn their schedules and the songs. Invite the children to sing-along with you which will improve their language skills and vocabulary, develop better self-esteem and discipline, and create a calm, orderly atmosphere.

When certain holidays and celebrations approach, you may want to throw in a holiday twist to your transition songs to make them festive for the occasion.

Most transition songs are sung to traditional and familiar tunes: just change the words to relay the message and instructions. Here are a few to try, and don't be afraid to be creative as these usually make the best songs!

## Exploring Music and Movement with Young Children

Music and movement activities can be a fun part of every day in your preschool!

### Benefits of Music and Movement

- Provides a means of communication and expression
- Serves as an emotional release
- Heightens aesthetic awareness and sensitivity
- Develops and promotes creative thinking
- Develops an appreciation for individuality
- Serves as a balance in classroom activities
- Assists in the development of physical coordination and body awareness
- Strengthens self-concept and self confidence
- Increases self-understanding
- Enhances the ability to differentiate sounds
- Helps develop fine motor skills
- Provides opportunities for problem- solving and decision making
- Provides insight and assists the adult in understanding the child
- Develops self -relaxat ion and regulation skills
- Illustrates cause and effect
- Stimulates the part of the brain that learns
- Develops math concept s and skills

## **Make Musical Instruments!**

- Paper plate Tambourines
- Jingle bell bracelets (sewn onto ponytail holders, or threaded onto pipe cleaners)
- Bottle Music (glass bottles or glasses filled with different amounts of water, spoons)
- Milk carton or cereal box guitar
- Comb/wax paper harmonica
- Plastic egg shakers
- Clear soda bottle shakers
- Oatmeal container drum
- Dowel sticks (hit together to keep the beat)
- Sandpaper blocks (to rub together)
- Soda bottle whistles (blow downward, from the side, to make sound)
- Snapple juice lid clackers
- Pots and Pan lid cymbals

As a child move from one activity to another, singing songs cue young children what to expect next. Read on and learn some songs to transition children of all ages.

## Children in Transition

Young children like routines and schedules, they like doing things the same way each time. When transitions are planned as a meaningful part of the curriculum, they promote the learning of skills in a positive way. Since children move often to activities, singing songs are especially helpful as they clue young children to what comes next.

The use of "piggyback" songs, which are new lyrics to familiar tunes, are helpful in getting the child's attention to what is planned next. Practice making up songs with your chosen words to fit the traditional tune. As teachers and caregivers sing the same songs daily, repetition of the song and activity is the easiest way to teach skills. Sing as often as you can with children. This will increase the group's happy feelings about playing together and the more you sing these songs, the more likely children will learn the words and melodies.

Use songs to initiate transitions in a child's day. Here are a few transition songs to try:

### Welcome and Hello songs

#### The Name Song

##### **Tune: Bingo**

There was a class that had a child  
And Chloe was her name-0.  
C-H-L-O-E,C-H-L-O-E,C-H-L-O-E,  
Chloe was her name-0.

#### Welcoming Song

##### **Tune: If You're Happy and You Know**

It  
I'm so happy to see you today,  
I'm so happy to see you today.  
(Child's name) won't you stand,  
And shake your neighbor's hand.  
Now everybody clap and say hooray!

**Where Is Linda****Tune: Frere Jacques**

Teacher: Where is Linda? Where is Linda?

Linda: Here I am, Here I am.

Teacher : How are you this morning:

Linda: Very well , I thank you.

Teacher : Hop away. Hop away.

(Linda hops away)

*Repeat using other children. Also vary the final action: walk skip, or jump away etc.*

**Stand Up Song****Tune: Are You Sleeping/Frere Jacques**

Stand up Tara, Stand up Tara,

Stand up Jake, Stand up Jake.

Wave your hands up high now. Can you reach the sky now?

Then sit down. Then sit down.

**Start Class Time****Tune: Farmer in the Dell**

We' ll work and play today

We'll work and play today

Hello! Hello! to everyone

We' ll work and play today!

**Hola Todos****Tune: London Bridges (Spanish- English)**

Hola todos, si, si, si

Si, si, si; si, si, si.

Hola todos, si, si, si,

Si, si, si, amigos.

Hello everybody, yes, yes, yes,

Yes, yes, yes: yes, yes, yes.

Hello everybody, yes, yes, yes,

Yes, yes, yes, friends.

## Circle Time Activities

### Circle Time Song

Tune: Oh, My Darling Clementine  
 Time for circle, time for circle,  
 Time for circle time today.  
 We will sit down and be quiet,  
 Wonder what we'll do today?

### Circle Time Song:

Tune: Row Row Row your boat  
 Hush, Shhh(finger to lips)Quiet  
 please let 's all gather near  
 Find a friend and sit right down  
 Circle time is here.

### Circle Time Song:

Tune: "Oh, My Darling Clementine"  
 Time for circle, time for circle,  
 Time for circle time today.  
 Let's sit down, let's be quiet,  
 Wonder what we will do today?

### The Color Song

Tune: Farmer in the Dell  
 Oh, Abby is wearing red,  
 Oh, Abby is wearing red,  
 High Ho the derry oh,  
 Abby is wearing red.  
 Continue using new colors and other children's  
 names

### Story time

Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're ready for a story find a seat;  
 if you're ready for a story find a seat;  
 if you're ready for a story check your hands  
 and then your feet;  
 if you're ready for a story find a seat.

### Bilingual circle time in Spanish:

Tune: Where is Thumbkin

Estoy esperando  
 Estoy esperando  
 Que mis amigos  
 Que mis amigos  
 Entren a la rueda  
 Entren a la rueda  
 Sientense Sientense

**Translation** for the "Estoy Esperando" song in Spanish.

I am waiting I am waiting  
 For all my friends, For all my friends  
 To come and join our circle, To come and join  
 our circle  
 Sit right down, Sit right down.

**Wiggles Out for Quiet Time**

Tune: "Jingle Bells"

Clap your hands, stomp your feet,  
Wiggle all around.

Reach your hands high in the air  
And now let's touch the ground.

Hold your hips, hold your head  
Give yourself a hug.

Sit right down, eyes to look,  
It's time to read a book.

**Quiet Time** (Action Poem)

This is my quiet time  
My feet are flat and still  
My hands too are still  
My hands are in my lap  
My head is limp  
My body is limp  
Now head rest on my knees  
My head comes up  
Now I am ready to listen.

**Hands** (Action Poem)

*The words describe the actions*  
My hands upon my head I'll place.  
Upon my shoulders, on my face,  
At my waist and by my side,  
Then behind me they will hide.  
Then I'll raise them way up high,  
And let my fingers fly, fly, fly,  
Then clap, clap, clap them--  
One - Two - Three!  
Now see how quiet they can be.

## Other Class Songs

<p><b><u>"Surprise Song"</u></b>  Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot"  What's in the surprise sack, who can tell?  Maybe a book, or maybe a shell.  What's in the surprise sack, who can see?  It's something special for you and me!</p>	<p><b><u>Time for Art</u></b>  Tune: "Are You Sleeping/ Frere Jacques"  Time for art, time for art,  Let's go paint, Let's go paint.  Time to make a picture, Time to make a picture,  Fun, fun, fun; fun,fun,fun!</p> <p>Make this song open-ended by changing the type of art (paint, draw, color, paste, etc.) .</p>
<p><b><u>Calendar Song</u></b>  Tune: "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"<sup>1</sup></p> <p>We wish you a happy Tuesday,  We wish you a happy Tuesday,  We wish you a happy Tuesday,  All day long.</p> <p>During circle time as you check the <u>calendar</u>, sing this song for the day of the week. You can also sing about holidays using the same tune.</p> <p>We wish you a happy Valentine's Day,  We wish you a happy Valentine's Day,  We wish you a happy Valentine's Day,  All day long!</p>	<p><b><u>If You're Wearing Red Today (Color Song)</u></b>  Tune: Muffin Man</p> <p>If you're wearing red today,  Red today, red today,  If you're wearing red today,  Stand up and say "Hoo-r ay!"</p> <p><b>Repeat: for other colors</b></p>
<p><b><u>NAMES. PLEASE!</u></b>  Tune : "Do Your Ears Hang Low?"  Can you write your name?  Can you write it nice and neat?  Will you please sign your paper  Before you leave your seat?  It's a simple thing to do.  And it lets me know you're through.  Can you write your name?</p>	<p><b><u>Singing Song</u></b>  Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat  Sing, sing, sing a song.  Sing out loud and clear.  Let's sing to children in our class,  That Music time is here.</p>

**"Jolly Good Helper"**

Tune: "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow"

(Name) is a jolly good helper .  
 (Name) is a jolly good helper .  
 (Name) is a jolly good helper ,  
 They' re picking up the toys.

We have a helper of the day in our classroom so I changed the words a little bit and now we sing this song to recognize our helper at the beginning of the day:

(Name) is a jolly good helper .  
 (Name) is a jolly good helper.  
 (Name) is a jolly good helper,  
 (Name) is the helper today.

**Transition songs an the hall)**

<p><b><u>When we come in from outside</u></b>  <b><u>(Transition)</u></b>                  Tune: London Bridges Falling Down                  Everybody please line up!                  Please line up! Please line up!                  Everybody please line up!                  We are going inside!</p>	<p><b><u>TRANSITION SONG</u></b>                  Tune: Gilligan's Island                  My hands are tight behind my back                  I'm standing straight and tall                  My eyes are looking straight ahead                  I'm ready for the hall                  Ready for the hall</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Down the Hall</u></b>                  Tune: This is the way we wash Our Clothes                  Here we go walking down the hall                  Down the hall, down the hall                  Here we go walking down the hall                  On our way outside</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Can substitute marching, skipping, or hopping to class, bathroom, etc.</p>	

## Gathering Songs

### **Washing Hands Song**

Tune: Happy Birthday

It 's time to wash hands,  
 It's time to wash hands,  
 Use soap for cleaning,  
 It 's time to wash ha nds.

### **If You're Ready**

Tune: If you're Happy and You Know It

If you're ready for your snack say "Let's Eat "

If you're ready for your snack say "Let's Eat "

If you' re ready for your snack

If you're ready for your snack

If you're ready for your snack say "Let's Eat "

### **We're Sitting All Together**

Tune: The More We Get Together

We're sitting all together, together, together

We're sitting all together as happy as can be.

There 's (child's name) and (child's name) and (child's name) and (child's name)

We're sitting all together as happy as can be.

### **Come Gather Together**

Tune: For He's a Jolly Good Fellow

Come, let's gather together,

Come, let 's gather together ,

Come, let's gather together ,

To see what we can do.

## Clean UP Songs

<p><b><u>Pick Up Toys Song</u></b>  Tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb  I t ' s ti me to pick the toys up now,  Toys up now, toys up now.  Time to pick the toys up now,  Let's see who does the best.</p>	<p><b><u>Clean Up Song</u></b>  Tune: London Bridge  Susie put the toys away,  Toys away, toys away.  Susie put the toys away,  <b>Its clean up time</b>  Sing additional verses changing the child 's  name Substitute toys with puzzles, books,  blocks, dolls, etc.</p>
<p><b><u>It's Time To Cleanup</u></b>  Tune: Frere Jacques  Are you helping, Are you  helping  Pick up toys, Pick up toys  Let us all be helpers,  Let us all be helpers.  Girls and boys, girls and boys.</p>	<p><b><u>Clean Up Time</u></b>  Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star  We've had lots of fun today,  It's time to put our things away.  We need all the girls and boys;  To stop now and pick up toys.  We've had lots of fun today,  <b>It's time to put our things  away.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Clean Up Song</u></b>  Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star  Twinkle, twinkle little star,  Time to clean up where you are.  Put your toy (or whatever you need to clean up)  back in it's place.  Keep a smile upon your f ace.  Twinkle, t winkle little star,  Time to clean up where you are.</p>	<p><b><u>Clean Up Time</u></b>  Tune: He' s Got the Whole World In His  Hands  It's time to put the (toys) away  It's time to put the (toys) away  It's time to put the (toys) away  So we can go outside</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Let's Clean Up</u></b>  Tune: Farmer In the Dell  Let's clean up today  Let's clean up today  We've had our fun  Our day is done.  So, let ' s clean up today.</p>	

## Good-Bye Songs

### Good-bye Song

Tune: Are You Sleeping/Frere Jacques  
School is over, school is over,  
Time to go home, time to go home.  
I'll see you all tomorrow, I'll see you all tomorrow.  
Wave good-bye, wave good-bye.

### Goodbye Child

Tune: Good night Ladies  
Good bye (child's name)  
Good bye (child's name)  
Goodbye (child's name)  
I'm so glad you came (or "It's time for us to go")

### Clap your hands and Wiggle your toes

Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star  
Clap your hands and wiggle your toes  
That's the way this silly song goes  
Wink your eye, lift hands high  
Now it's time to say "good-bye"  
Clap your hands and wiggle your toes  
That's the way this silly song goes

## References

### Books:

Teacher Created Materials, Inc., "How to manage your early childhood class room", 1999

Jean Warren, *Piggyback Songs* by [Totline Press, 1983]

### Websites:

<http://www.hummingbirded.com/transitional-music.html>

[www.preschoolrainbow.org/transition-rhymes.htm](http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/transition-rhymes.htm)

[www.childcarelounge.com/activity/transition-times.php](http://www.childcarelounge.com/activity/transition-times.php)

<http://www.brighthub.com/education/early-childhood/articles/48713.aspx#ixzz1IBdcdLv7>