



The

Connection

Resources

For Families and
Early Childhood
Professionals

SEPTEMBER 2018

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Visit our Resource and Lending Library Monday through Friday from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. You will discover FREE useful resources for teaching, parenting and activities for Quality time with your family!

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Child Connect
for Family Success

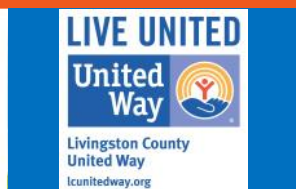
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Media Center
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517-548-9112
www.childconnectmi.org

Ten Ways to Celebrate the New School Year!



- 1) **Say cheese!** Hold a first-day photo shoot. Keep the mood light by suggesting silly faces or letting the family pet join in. Capture your child stepping off the school bus in the afternoon. Make it a lasting family tradition by having her pose by the same tree, swing, or mantel every year.
2. **Bury a time capsule.** Fill a box or jar with mementos that capture your child's current interests. Include a journal entry or video diary — he can list favorite movies, books, and bands and describe first-day fears, friends he can't wait to see, and goals for the year.
3. **Get lost in a library labyrinth.** Get her back in the school zone with a scholarly scavenger hunt. Make a list of five to ten questions to be answered by using different resources at the library. Include questions from reference books, trivia collections, and obscure clues about family favorites.
4. **See how he measures up.** Using a growth chart or the inside of a closet door, mark your child's current height. Keep track year by year to point out growth spurts and predict progress. To encourage follow-up fun, plant a tree together and track how much it grows before next fall.
5. **Plan a bus-stop breakfast social.** Invite neighborhood kids to get an early start the day before school begins. Fill a decorated wagon with juice boxes, fruits, and muffins. Haul it to the local bus stop at the usual pickup time as a dress rehearsal for the big day.
6. **Savor special treats.** Sneak a love note into her lunchbox to show you are thinking of her. The first day can be nerve-racking, so go for comfort food when dinner rolls around. [continued on Page 2]

It's all about Quality.



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Ten Ways to Celebrate the New School Year! [Continued from page 1]

Order a family favorite at the local pizzeria or savor a cool dessert as summer comes to a close.

7. **Throw a back-to-school bash.** Team up with neighbors to get the kids together before school starts. Send out report card invitations, serve lunch-box favorites, and decorate with school colors. Make brown-bag book covers, decorate calendars, and design bookmarks — ring a bell when it's time to switch activities!
8. **Dress to impress.** Celebrate a fresh year with a special outfit, spotless sneakers, or a whole new haircut. Let him choose his wardrobe the night before. Whether it's his favorite souvenir t-shirt or his lucky jersey, it will give him an extra boost of confidence on the big day.
9. **Learn something new.** Get those classroom habits back with a fun family activity like pottery or rock-climbing. It will encourage creativity, improve concentration, and leave you with a new morning mug or a little extra muscle.
10. **Require a rule-bending hullabaloo.** Break a few school rules before getting back to business: Dedicate one afternoon to getting all the summer fun out of his system. Have paper airplane contests, spit watermelon seeds, and wear pajamas during the day.

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The Provider Connection

Professional Development Opportunities ...



Register for all classes online at: childconnectmi.org or by calling 517-548-9112

View the 2018 UPDATED Professional Development Calendar [HERE!](#)

LET'S CONNECT!

Child Connect for Family Success is Online:

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Health & Safety Compliance Training!

10 hours of Training. This class module meets the new health and safety training requirements of PA 116 as amended.

MUST HAVE INTERNET ACCESS
\$35.00 per person for agency validated Completion Certificate

Register online at childconnectmi.org
Or call 517-548-9112

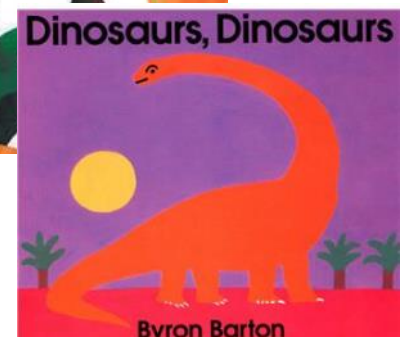
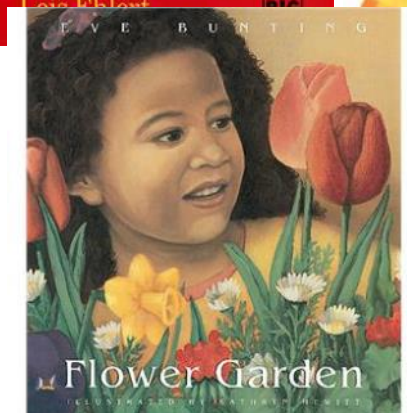
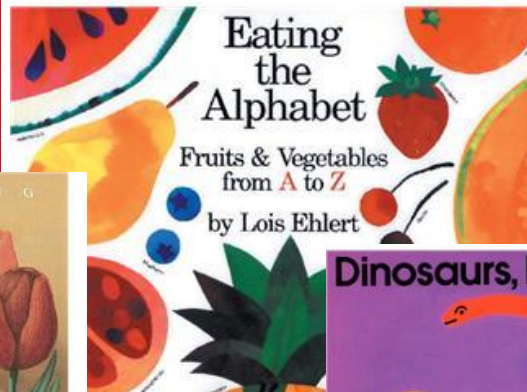
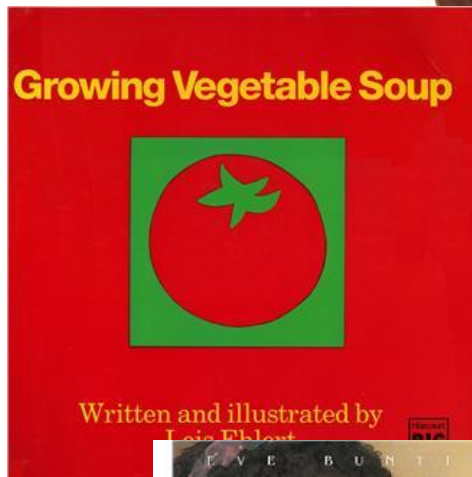
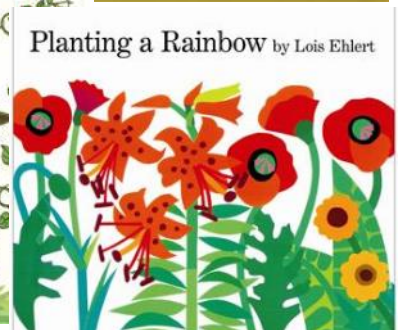
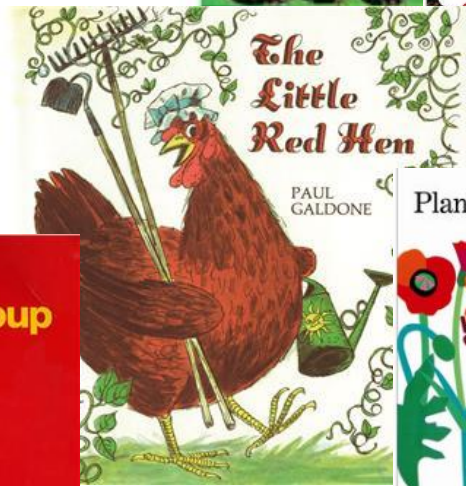
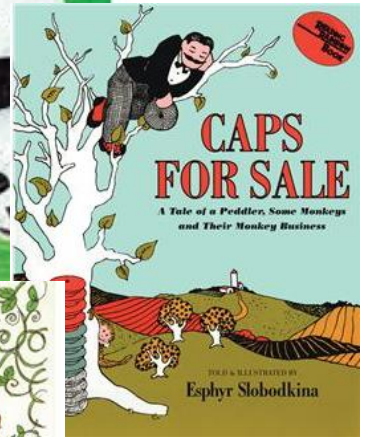
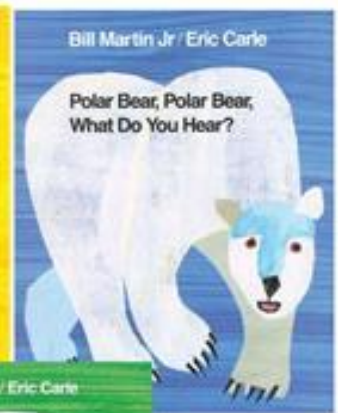
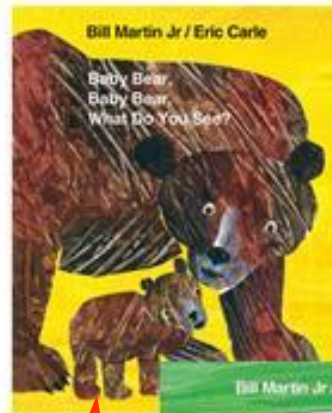
FREE Social & Emotional Support & Training with Holly Carter, LLMSW at Child Connect. **"Myth Busters"**
September 18, 2018 from 6:30—8:30 pm

Register online or by calling:
517-548-9112

Resounding Resources



Come in and check out our interactive Resource kits ready for Back to School programs! We have many new BIG BOOKS for you to check out and use with the children in your care!



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Tips for Teachers: Transitions are an Important Part of Your Routine!

Transitions in early childhood classrooms are the “between” times from one scheduled activity to the next. Transitions that work well can make the scheduled activities cohesive and promote successful classroom management. Planned transitions rarely last for more than 5 minutes, but they help keep children on task and ready to move on to the next classroom activity. Successful strategies involve adult support in making the transitions and allowing the children to make choices.

Types of Transitions. There are several types of transition activities including musical, physical, creative, and cognitive.

- **Musical transitions** involve the use of music, songs, or instruments and are popular with young children.
- **Physical transitions** encourage children to use their bodies. Physical transition activities also often include creativity as children pretend and use movement as part of the fun.
- **Creative transitions** frequently involve “let’s pretend” activities that may also incorporate music or physical movement.
- **Cognitive transitions** may incorporate independent play with manipulatives, individual “reading,” or a circle time reading activity in which the teacher reads a book to the group.

Transitions are important for young children as they gear down or gear up for the next activity, and transitions normally precede important routines. For example, before rest time the teacher may read a book to the children and then play soft music to help the children relax and prepare for rest. Other examples include the use of transition activities to help children wind down from outdoor activities, gear down before going to lunch, or prepare for cleanup time. **Alternating active and quieter activities helps make transitions proceed more smoothly.** Skilled teachers should have a tried and true collection of activities available, not only for planned transitions, but also for unplanned redirection of children as part of a successful classroom management plan. Transitions should incorporate best practices that are extended to other classroom activities, including active learning and the selection of activities that interest the children.

Tips for Successful Transitions. Recognize transition times as distinct parts of the day. When planning and making daily preparations, include transitions in the routine as changes occur. Know what transition activities will be used, and be ready in advance. This will make it easier to keep active children busy and engaged rather than restless and bored.

- Plan free choice activities for the beginning and end of the day for children to do while waiting for others to arrive or to go home. Organization really helps with this. Have a designated area available for children to use when other areas are not open. This area should have a table for manipulatives and a floor space with mats and cushions for children who prefer to sit on the floor to play.
- Choose materials that children are interested in at the time. Put out art and writing supplies, books, table toys, blocks, and puzzles. Vary the materials to keep quiet play fresh and interesting.
- Prepare children for change. Give them advance warning that the activities they are involved in will soon end. Usually 3 to 5 minutes will allow enough time for children to finish what they are doing and to make the mental shift to another activity. Help the children get ready for change by keeping them informed. To assist in easing the transition, tell children where they are going next and what the activity will be.
- Keep verbal directions short, specific, and few in number. Present directions in steps rather than all at once. Speak clearly and as softly as possible rather than raising your voice to talk over the sounds of active children. This will keep the noise level from rising. Children will become quieter in order to hear what you are saying instead of continuing to play.
- Try to keep the number of transitions to a minimum, but be prepared to move on to a new activity early if needed. Have a repertoire of finger plays or activity songs that you know well enough to pull out on the spur of the moment to use when needed.
- Sounds can act as signals of transitions. A steady beat played on a drum may be used as an indicator that it is time to come together as a group in the circle area. A triangle may be used as the 5 minute warning that a transition is coming soon. music to help with transitions.
- Play music softly. A slow tempo creates a tranquil mood. Quiet music and calm conversations at lunch aid the transition from an active morning to a peaceful rest time. Music can help children move from active to quiet play.
- To transition from outside or other boisterous play, establish a routine. Walk around so everyone can see you, and hold up one hand to signal that the end of play is coming soon. After 5 minutes, stand in one place and hold up two hands. Teach the children to “freeze” and hold their hands up as they see you or another child doing this. One by one everyone will become still and quiet. You can then motion towards the door or tell them what is going to happen next.
- Vary the types of transitional activities used throughout the day.
- Be mindful of the developmental levels of the children.
- Avoid keeping unoccupied children waiting for long periods.
- **Make transitions FUN!**

Parent Resources ... Open the link to Enjoy!



[Back To School Countdown](#)



[Make Your Morning Routine](#)



[3 Common Preschool Problems](#)



[The Best Children's Reading and Book Apps](#)

[First Day of School Success](#)

6 Ways to Start Preschool on the Right Foot (follow the links!)

By Amanda Rock

Now that the first day of school is nearly here, it's time for the final preparation. There are some steps you can take ahead of time to help your little one have a great day at preschool -- from getting a good night's sleep to making sure her backpack is well stocked with the proper supplies:

1. [Setting a Bedtime Routine](#)
2. [Read Starting Preschool Books](#)
3. [Preschool Supplies for the First Day of School](#)
4. [What Not To Bring on the First Day of School](#)
5. [Top Preschool Supplies](#)
6. [The Night Before the First Day of Preschool](#)
7. [Helping Your Child Have a Great First Day of Preschool](#)



Check out the [Parent Portal](#) from ZERO TO THREE. This site offers resources grounded in science to help parents and caregivers have the most positive impact on their young child's development during the first critical 1000 days of life. Resources are available in the following categories: Ages and Stages, Play, Sleep, Social-Emotional Development, School Readiness and Early Learning, Challenging Behavior, and Positive Parenting Approaches.

**CHILD CONNECT
2018 REGIONAL
EARLY CHILDHOOD
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KEYNOTE

• AND •

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