

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with "SCHOOL BUS" written on their fronts. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, colorful balloons, and several small tables with chairs. A large white diagonal shape separates the image from the text on the right.

Tending to Transitions: Preschool to Kindergarten

Veronica Brown

Education Program Consultant

Kentucky Department of Education,
Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Early Learning Unit

School Readiness Branch



Kentucky Department of

EDUCATION

Welcome and Norms

- Welcome to Tending to Transitions from Preschool to Kindergarten
- Norms
 - Be involved
 - Be kind
 - Be aware

Welcome

Introduction

- Married for 30 years, two adult children
- Kentucky Department of Education Preschool Consultant
- Classroom Teacher
- Business Manager
- Stage Manager



Agenda

- Gear Up for Gardening
- Digging up the Definition
- Planting Strategies
- Harvesting Discussions



Gearing Up for Gardening

Would You Rather?

- Use the gardening gloves or gardening hat cards.



- Make your choice known by raising the appropriate card for your choice

Would You Rather...

Popcorn	Toast
Live on the beach?	Live in the woods?
Eat in a restaurant?	Take the food to go?
Receive a gift?	Give a gift?
See the future?	Change the past?
Teach 10 children alone?	Teach 20 children with a great para?
Change your hair?	Change your wardrobe?
Have a long fall break?	Have a long spring break?

Digging into the Definition

- What does it mean to transition from preschool to kindergarten?
- Is this a meeting or a process?



Digging Deeper

- Which students does this belong to?
- Which teachers/staff does this apply to?
- When does this happen?



Planting Strategies for Students

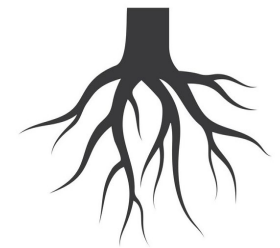
Every classroom teaches:

- Creativity
- Social/Emotional Tools
- Language/Early Literacy
- Math
- Gross Motor Skills
- Science
- Social Studies
- Technology



Root Level Learning

- Routines: entering the room, walking in the halls, riding the bus, etc.
- Self-help skills: using the restroom, washing hands, opening milk, etc.
- Communication skills: asking for help, greeting safe adults, making needs and wants known to friends, etc.
- Friendship skills: joining peers in play, working collaboratively to accomplish a task, etc.
- What else can we add to this list to dig even deeper?



Planting Strategies for Staff

- Collaboration between all staff in both preschool and kindergarten. This includes administrators, family resource staff, cafeteria staff and nursing staff.
- By sharing with Related Content (Arts) teachers the Individualize Education Program goals and needs of students goes a long way toward student success. This will allow those teachers to prepare their rooms and teaching styles for students they may have never had experience teaching.



Planting Strategies: End of Year Meetings

- Transition meeting conversations are factual not opinion based.
- Meetings can include helpful ideas about what worked with a particular student, remembering that what works for you may or may not work for the next teacher.
- Be mindful to keep meetings informative and to refrain from becoming negative when speaking about children, staff and families.



Planting Strategies with Families

- Clear and open communication between families and the school.
- Assist in maintaining up-to-date records: eye exams, dental exams, immunizations, etc.
- Elementary school videos, (A day in the life of a kindergartener at Pumpkin Elementary) that can be shared on social media or in two-way communication apps.
- In-person visits



Planting Strategies with Families

Are they involved or engaged?

Karen Mapp, a leading researcher and presenter regarding family engagement and creator of the [Dual Capacity Framework](#) states, “Family engagement is a full, equal and equitable partnership among families, educators and community partners to promote children’s learning and development from birth through college and career.”

Engagement:

- Focuses on collective responsibility and partnership
- Communication is two-way and listening is a priority
- Family knowledge is valued and honored
- Focuses on collaborative processes
- Relationship is transformative

Involvement:

- Focuses on individual responsibility
- Communication to families is one way
- Space for listening is low priority
- Focuses on programming, not people
- Relationship is transactional

Planting Strategies with Families

- Make space for parents in the building, guests with background checks or provide things for parents who cannot commit during the day to do at night.
- Tie family engagement to academic achievement: reading, math, art, science, social studies and related content are all excellent family involvement night ideas for your families to grow as scholars.
- Bring family members in as community and cultural partners.



Harvesting Discussion

- Share one way you and your fellow staff blossom in preparing students in the classroom.
- Describe how you are blooming with ways you are preparing all staff for incoming kindergarten students.
- Brag about how you cultivate preparing families for the transition to kindergarten!



Farmer's Market

- Please write at least one way you are **Tending to Transitions from Preschool to Kindergarten** and put it on the vendor stall poster.



Contact Information

- Veronica Brown
 - Veronica.Brown@education.ky.gov
- Schedule a [Microsoft Booking](#) for one-on-one support with a School Readiness Branch consultant.