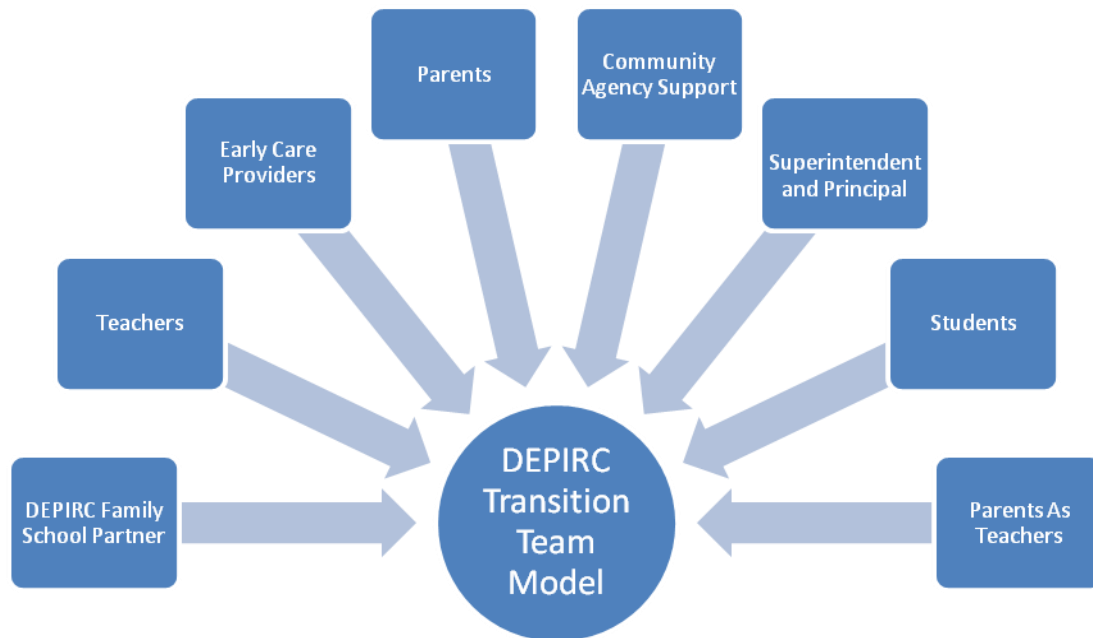


Delaware Parental Information & Resource Center Transition Team Model



***Enhancing the Transition to Kindergarten by Linking
Families and Schools***

In partnership, the Parent Information Center of Delaware and Delaware Parents As Teachers program are working with schools and early care providers to implement a Transition Model to help children and families successfully transition into kindergarten. This model involves a careful planning process and consideration of best transition practices appropriate to the needs of the family, school and community.



A successful transition plan requires that:

1. Families are a critical part of the home, school and community partnership and are the decision makers concerning their child's care and education.
2. A wide range of home, school and community partners (e.g., parents, Parents As Teachers educators, early care and education staff, kindergarten teachers, and other school staff) share leadership and guide decision making.
3. Care, education, health and social services focus on the full range of needs and circumstances of individual children and their families. Plans are flexible and include a range of practices.
4. Home, school and community partners maintain open communication.
5. Schools and community partners effectively manage resources such as people, time, materials, space and funds.
6. Home-school and community partners document their efforts and use evaluation information to improve policies, programs and practices. Examples of information to collect include checklists, parent and teacher surveys and feedback, and documentation on children's progress in kindergarten.

Benefits of Implementing a Transition Team

Schools will benefit from:

1. Increased capacity to welcome and support families and children entering the school.
2. An increase in knowledge, understanding, and skills of incoming kindergarten students.
3. A strong foundation for open communication between school and families.
4. Stronger relationships between school administrators, kindergarten teachers, families and preschool providers.
5. A greater understanding of the expectations between families and schools regarding roles and responsibilities.
6. Increased family and community support.

Families will benefit from:

1. The opportunity to connect with other families and school staff members.
2. Information and resources about the skills and knowledge their children need for kindergarten readiness and success.
3. A greater understanding of the expectations between families and schools regarding roles and responsibilities.
4. Improved self-confidence in their ability to communicate with school staff and have a positive influence on the educational system.

Steps To Establish a Transition Team

1. Communication with the School District
Family School Partner and PAT Educator will contact district personnel to discuss the structure of the transition model, criteria, and responsibilities in order to assess fit and sustainability.
2. Communication with the School
Identify a target school and establish contact with the Principal regarding the model. Discuss the MOU outlining respective roles and responsibilities.
3. Identify early care and preschool programs that feed into the district, targeting day-care centers, preschools, Head Starts, etc. that serve low- income and culturally diverse children.
4. Work with an assigned school contact to identify and communicate with transition team members. Schedule regular meetings.
5. Transition team should meet regularly to develop identify activities and best practices that meet the needs of the school and its families within given timeframes.
6. Evaluate progress toward goals established by the team after each event and annually.