Practical Transition Strategies to Heighten Expectations, Engagement, and Empowerment for Students with Disabilities

Smart Beginnings – Families and Advocates
August 16, 2023
What is the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTACT:C)?

→ Jointly funded center: The US Department of Education - The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

→ Helps state and local schools and agencies to better support students and youth in making successful transitions to adult life

→ Builds on history of:
  ✓ WINTAC (RSA)
  ✓ YTAC (RSA)
  ✓ NTACT (OSEP & RSA)
NTACT:C Staff
NTACT:C Website – www.transitionta.org

- Live and Pre-recorded Webinars
- Watch Parties
- Transition Life Hacks (videos)
- Online Modules & Mini-modules
- FAQs
- Presenter guides, videos, documents, toolkits, data resources, etc.
- Sign up for our weekly email News Blast
- Email: ntact-collab@uncc.edu
Presentation Take-Aways

→ Key commonalities and considerations for life transitions
→ Collaboration and presumed competence are key
→ Transition Resources
What is Transition?

Transition happens when a person moves from one life stage…
To another…

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE!
Transition = A Coordinated Effort

Families and Students

Coordination of Services

Agencies and Support Services
Family Engagement

→ Family input early in the transition process establishes a solid foundation for planning and builds critical connections and relationships with the transition partners

→ It is vital that educators and agency staff:
  ✓ Build a trustworthy relationship with the young person and family
  ✓ Appreciate the fact that families have a long history of working with multiple professionals with mixed results
  ✓ Provide support to families to plan for change during the transition process
Transition Covers All Of Life’s Stages:

A “Transition” is any time an individual moves from one placement into another and are an ongoing process throughout an individual’s life.

✓ From Birth to 3 into Pre-School
✓ From Pre-School into Kindergarten
✓ From Kindergarten into Elementary School
✓ From Elementary School into Middle School
✓ From Middle School into High School
✓ From High School into College or Postsecondary Education
✓ From College/Postsecondary Education into Adult Living
Key Commonalities in Life Transitions

- Embrace change and recognize the stress
- Prepare and understand the next environment
- Build support networks and understand community and agency supports
- Explore, understand, and access tools and resources
- Practice self-care
- Be patient and allow time for success – celebrate the small gains
Presume Competence

✓ Learned Helplessness or Independence come from you

✓ There is true dignity in risk

✓ The development of self-determination is a learned behavior, based on experiences, attitudes and opportunities
Use Teachable Moments

- Use real life situations
- Making choices
- Reasonable level of risk
- Living with the consequences
How transitions can be easier on all concerned?

- Begin planning early and maintain consistency
- Understand and engage with **ALL** the necessary players
- Engage in family information sessions and trainings regarding the transition process and future options
- Engage in “move up” activities where the students and the families can meet the new teachers and staff
How transitions can be easier on all concerned? (continued)

- Engage in planning where everyone knows their responsibilities
- Observe stressors/pressures/situations beyond academic and connect with support
- Coordinate the transfer of relevant information to the next placement
- Connect with other families
- Remember the three Cs – Communication, Coordination, Collaboration
Resources

✓ Center for Parent Information and Resources

✓ The Guideposts for Success: A Framework for the Future

✓ The Transition Coalition
Thank you!
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Find us on:

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