

# Talking Tips For Transitions

Talking with children during transitions builds the brain systems they use for communication and learning. Use the Talking Tips below to turn everyday transitions into brain-building moments.

## Arrival

### Try: Following their lead.

This strategy helps children feel seen and valued. It helps you understand how they are feeling, which sets a positive tone for the day.

- “Good morning, I see you holding your blanket. I’m glad you are here with me.”
- “You look excited today. What book did you bring to share with the class?”



## Personal care

### Try: Talking about what you’re doing and thinking.

This strategy helps children learn new words by seeing and hearing them used during real activities.

- “Your diaper is coming off. Now I’m wiping gently. Does that feel cold?”
- “First we wash our hands. Then we rinse. What comes next?”

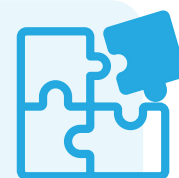


## Activity changes

### Try: Commenting on what they’re doing or looking at.

This strategy helps children understand what is ending and what is coming next during transitions like cleanup, preparing for naptime, or leaving the playground.

- “You are putting the puzzles away. When you are done, let’s sit on the carpet.”
- “I see you waiting patiently. What do you think we are doing next?”



### Try: Waiting for a response.

This strategy gives children time to process what’s happening, making it easier to transition to the next activity.

- “Circle time! Would you like to hop there or walk?”
- “We’re all done with toys. Do you want to put the car away or the teddy bear?”

