

PRESCHOOL TO ELEMENTARY

BIG TRANSITIONS



CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR SGLs

... for intentional conversations with kids

Believe it or not, the transition from preschool to elementary school is a big one for these little kids. The structure of their world is taking a drastic change, at school and even at church. This will require you to have a little extra patience with your few during this change, and it'll be really helpful to help them set expectations for how this new world is going to work. You may have kids who can already read and write their name, and you might also have some kids who cry when they can't find the color crayon they're looking for. During the days ahead, you'll want to comfort any fears they may have about the year ahead of them. We want to help you by giving you some words to say and not to say! Remember that your goal during this time is to:

ENGAGE THEIR INTERESTS.

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WHAT TO SAY:

- "I'm so happy I get to have you in my group and see you every week!"
(Set up your consistency.)
- "During our time here in this room, we're going to spend the first five minutes sitting at this circle, and then we'll go over there and listen to a story and sing some songs. Afterwards, we'll come back to this circle again and hang out and play games." *(Describe what your morning will look like each Sunday.)*
- "You're going to learn so many new things this year. What's one thing you're excited to learn?"
- "You can ask me any question you want while we're here!"
- "What are you most excited about going into Kindergarten?"
- "Your teacher will help you know what to do each day and where to go until you get the hang of it."
- "You might see some of your old friends, and you'll also meet some new ones."
- "I can't wait to hear all about your first day!"

WHAT **NOT** TO SAY:

- "You will have so many new friends in your new class."
(This can sound overwhelming.)
- "You will have all new teachers. Isn't that exciting?"
(It may sound more scary than exciting.)
- "You are a big kid now. You can walk into your new room without your mom or dad."
- "Big kids do not cry."
- "You get to do big kid work now."

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