



**F**amilies



Understanding



Needs

## **FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO TRANSITION**

What is Transition? In education “Transition is the process for movement of infants, toddlers and their family between or within service delivery systems. A successful transition process is ongoing and...**Future Focused!**” (Ohio Department of Health and Department of Education).

In our **FUN** training “Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Transition” transition services are discussed that address children who may need or may continue to need special education services as they enter their third year of age. Timelines, services your child needs and regulations will be discussed along with Individualized Family Service Plans or IFSP.

Transitions happen everyday to everyone. Your child’s educational transition is just one journey in a lifetime of journeys. If the services provided are focused, individualized, and implemented to meet the needs of each child, then the transition journey will feel just like “home”.

You will discuss some of the supports you and your child may need in the transition process. Some of those supports are: who can assist with the transition activities; what is a Service Coordinator; what transition activities will take place; what are the timelines for services to begin; and how to complete each step of the transition plan. You will learn what an Interagency

## **SPRING 2008**

Agreement on Transition is and more.

“Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Transition” is one of ten **FUN** trainings Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities has designed to help families and professionals. All of the trainings are free and come with a booklet! If you are interested in scheduling one of our trainings in your area, contact us for information and availability. For a complete list and details of our trainings, visit our website at [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org) or call 800-374-2806.

Spring is a **FUN** time for renewal. In this **FUN** newsletter there are four book reviews, three for different ages to read together and one for adults on parenting. There are several family friendly websites for information and **FUN**, and some activities to do outside or inside on those rainy, spring days. When can your child understand the word no and when to wean your child from a pacifier or thumb are discussed. So enjoy your **FUN** spring days with your children for they will not be children for long!



## BOOK REVIEWS

### MOTHER MAY I?

By Grace Maccarone

Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

This is an endearing story with delightful illustrations that capture the loving relationship between a mother and a child. The kangaroo mother and child travel from home to town for shopping along colorful, board pages and ending with a hug.

Ages 6 months to 3 years.

### CAN'T CATCH ME

By John and Ann Hassett

In this frosty spoof of the tale of the gingerbread boy, a mother makes her thirsty boy an ice cube for his lemonade.

The ice cube escapes from the freezer and runs out the kitchen door. He has big plans – he wants to grow as big as an iceberg so he can bump into boats.

“Can’t catch me – I’m off to the sea,” the ice cube says to the boy, an ant, a mouse, a cat, a goose, a man and a dog as he leads his pursuers on a merry chase to the sea.

In the end, the ice cube finds that just desserts are not always sweet. And a thirsty boy discovers that mothers really do know best.

Ages 4 thru 8

### MY LITTLE GRANDMOTHER OFTEN FORGETS

By Reeve Lindbergh

Illustrated by Kathryn Brown

Tom’s grandmother is very forgetful, but Tom doesn’t mind. He loves to help her and spend time with her, playing checkers or just sitting quietly. The special bond between a beloved grandmother affected by memory loss and her patient, devoted grandson is described in Reeve Lindbergh’s most

personal book for children, one that is based on her own and her son’s relationship with her mother in the last years of her life.

Kathryn Brown’s watercolor illustrations tenderly capture the unique characters – and the love that is universal.

Ages 3 thru adult

### HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

By Dr. Kevin Leman

And finally for parents or caregivers: In Home Court Advantage Dr. Leman urges moms and dads to take a good look at who’s raising and influencing their children to give them the “home court advantage” that comes with spending plenty of time together.

“What defines homegrown kids more than anything else,” writes Dr. Leman “is an authentic, carefully cultivated relationship with their parents.” Dr. Leman recommends taking advantage of “everyday opportunities such as meals, chores, car rides, etc. to build your relationships with your kids.”

Dr. Leman pays special attention to single parents, providing encouragement and strategies for giving children the home court advantage despite added challenges.



**Did you know** April 13-19 is **National Library Week?** Go to

[www.winslo.state.oh.us/publib/libtable.html](http://www.winslo.state.oh.us/publib/libtable.html)

to find your local library and what’s happening there. Children love to go to the library and pick out books themselves to read. Getting their own library card, checking out and returning books are a good way to learn responsibility.

## FUN AND EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

For a listing of summer camps for Children with Disabilities go to [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org) in the alphabetical listing click on c for camps. Spring is the time to plan for summer camp!

At [www.sparkohio.org](http://www.sparkohio.org) you will find information on SPARK. The Spark Initiative in Stark County Ohio supports partnerships between schools and families to increase the quality of early learning experiences necessary for a child's later success in school. View their newsletters on the website for more information and contact information.

Do you have a baby or young child and wonder if they are on target in their development? Sign up with your child's age at [www.babycenter.com](http://www.babycenter.com) and they will send you updates via email the development stage for that age. Or if you are pregnant and you sign up with your delivery due date, they will update your pregnancy week by week via email.

[www.zonein.ca](http://www.zonein.ca) is the website for the *Zone'in* and *Move'in* Programs created by Cris Rowan. Cris is a well-known Occupational Therapist, speaker and author to teachers, parents and therapists throughout North America. *Zone'in* and *Move'in* Programs address sensory and motor delays in elementary school children.

[www.learn4good.com/kids](http://www.learn4good.com/kids) is a Children's website with free access to hundreds of educational games, activities, worksheets, lessons and top school websites for all Kids including teens.

[www.earlychildhoodlinks.com/parents/childrenswebsitesindex.htm](http://www.earlychildhoodlinks.com/parents/childrenswebsitesindex.htm) is a G rated website for children, parents and teachers. The website has online coloring, games and puzzles.

And finally for all you parents who grew up reading National Geographic there is [www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com). This is a great website with lots of information on geography and science. They have games, videos, and activities to help children learn more about their world and how to make it a better place to live.

## JUST FOR FUN

Q: What do you get when you cross an insect with a rabbit?

A: Bugs Bunny!

Q: Why did the turtle cross the road?

A: It was the chicken's day off!



Q: What happens to ducks when you tell them too many jokes?

A: They Quack up!



Q: What do sharks eat for dinner?

A: Fish and ships!

And finally an old tongue twister some of you may recall:

She sells sea shells by the sea shore.  
The shells she sells are surely seashells.  
So if she sells shells on the seashore,  
I'm sure she sells seashore shells!



## FAMILY PROJECTS

### WHEELBARROW SEED STARTER

Age: Preschool and up with help

Materials needed:

- Scissors
- Laundry-powder scoop
- Nail file
- Tacky craft glue
- Two buttons
- Stickers
- Beads
- Potting soil
- Seeds

With an adult's help, cut out a V shape from the handle of a laundry-powder scoop to form the wheelbarrow's two handles. Use a nail file to smooth any rough edges.

For wheels, use tacky craft glue to attach a button to each side of the scoop near the bottom front corners.

Decorate the wheelbarrow with stickers and some glued-on beads.

Fill the wheelbarrow partway with potting soil, and plant a seed or two. Transplant the seedlings when they are about three inches tall.

([www.highlightskids.com](http://www.highlightskids.com))

### FRIENDSHIP BRACELET

Age: 6 and up with help

Materials needed:

- Assorted beads
- Elastic cord or fishing line
- Towel
- Clear nail polish
- Scissors Clasp (with fishing line)

Lay the beads on a towel to keep them from rolling around and have your child arrange them in any pattern they like.

Cut a length of elastic cord or fishing line six inches longer than the circumference of your child's wrist.

Then string the beads in one of the following ways:

If you're using cord, tie an anchor bead to the end of the cord.

Have your child string the beads in the order chosen. (If they are using letter beads, make sure they're facing the right way.)

Tie the ends together so the bracelet fits your child's wrist snugly but stretches enough to slip over his hand.

Brush nail polish on the knot to make it more secure.

If you are using fishing line, tie a clasp to one end of the line.

Have your child string the beads in the order they choose. (If using letter beads, make sure they're facing the right way.)

Tie the other end of the line to the clasp, making sure the bracelet will fit your child's wrist when the clasp is fastened.

Brush nail polish onto the knots to make them more secure.

([www.fun.familyeducation.com](http://www.fun.familyeducation.com))

**And** for those rainy days. . . . .

Any day is a good day to start saving money for a rainy day. To make your own "Rainy Day Fund" bank you will need:

- A clean plastic jar (peanut butter jars work well)
- Scissors
- Felt
- White glue
- Permanent marker

Clean and remove the label from the plastic jar.

Cut out an umbrella shape from felt and glue it to the side of the jar.

Use the marker to write "Rainy Day Fund" on the jar.

Cut a slot in the lid (you may need an adult to help).

When you get your allowance or earn money doing something for someone, put the money in the lid's slot.

Save the money for something special or important.

(First Light, April 2005)

## **FAMILY FUN**

### **Pack a Survival Kit**

Having the right supplies available can make or break your day. Keep some nonperishable snacks such as small bags of cereal, pretzel rods, animal crackers, cereal bars, granola bars and snack crackers and water bottles in the car... Try to choose low-sugar snacks to keep children from getting hyper.

It's also very helpful to keep some fun kids' music cassettes or CDs in the car. Music is a wonderful way to set a mood. Visit your local library for books on tape or CDs. Listening to a story in the car is a great way to help your child develop better listening skills while keeping them occupied.

Drawing paper, coloring books and colored pencils are great travel tools. Your child can keep an outing journal by drawing pictures of places you go. Use colored pencils in the car as opposed to crayons because crayons will melt in hot weather. If you use colored pencils in the car, be sure to keep a pencil sharpener with a shavings collection cap in the glove compartment to keep pencils sharp.

Wherever you go, it's good to have some quiet, self-contained toys. Look for items such as Etch-a-Sketch, Magna Doodle, dolls, or a favorite stuffed toy and durable books to take along to the Dr.'s office, restaurant or Grandma's house. Children can't be expected to occupy themselves for long without something to play with.

([www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org))



## **DEVELOPMENT**

### **The Seven Signs That Your Child Loves You Are:**

Your newborn stares into your eyes – they are actually working hard to memorize your face.

Your baby thinks about you even when you're not around. Between 8 and 12 months old, they'll start to scrunch their face and look around when you leave the room and then smile when you return.

Your toddler throws wicked tantrums. That shows that they trust you deeply.

Your toddler runs to you for comfort when they fall down or feels sad.

Your preschooler gives you a flower picked from the garden, a finger-painted heart, a sparkly rock or another gift.

Your preschooler wants your approval. "Look at me!" will become a catchphrase.

Your grade-schooler trusts you with secrets, like their first crush or most embarrassing moment.

([www.babycenter.com](http://www.babycenter.com))

## Understanding the Word “NO”

There's a big difference between understanding “no” and being able to follow through on it, says Barbara Howard, M.D., a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. By 3 months, probably earlier, babies can recognize expressions like anger and displeasure. Infants under one will stop for a moment when a parent says no, but they're responding mostly to the tone of voice and not because they really understand the word.

“Between 12 and 18 months, your baby will test what you mean,” says Dr. Howard. That's when they'll look at you, smile, and then repeat their behavior to see if they get the same response. It isn't until about age 2 that a child understands “no” and can follow through on it without an adult present. Even then, depending on the temptation and situation, young kids may have a hard time respecting rules when left unsupervised. ([www.child.com](http://www.child.com))

## SCIENCE/MEDICAL

### Fun Facts about Spiders

Despite their fearsome appearance, tarantulas do not have venom that's deadly to humans, and they bite only if severely threatened. They're the largest spiders in North America. Several species inhabit southern and desert areas.

The black widow is aptly named; females of this species eat males after mating.

Many spider species have eight eyes. If you go out on a summer night with a flashlight and shine it on the ground, you may be greeted by the eye-shine of wolf spiders hunting in your yard.

Argiope spiders weave a thick zigzag pattern in the center of their otherwise hard-to-see webs. It provides a visual cue to birds and

larger animals to avoid the web so spiders don't have to waste energy rebuilding torn webs.

(Gardening How-To Jan.-Feb. 2007)



### Weaning from Pacifiers and Thumbs

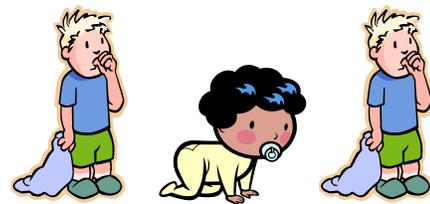
Children usually give up the pacifier on their own between 2 and 4 years of age. Thumb and finger sucking should be discouraged by the time a child is 6 to 8 years of age.

Before then, thumb and finger sucking will not cause permanent damage to the teeth or mouth, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Expert advice:

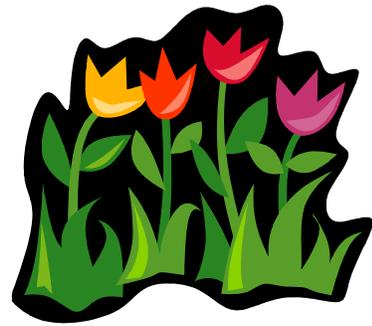
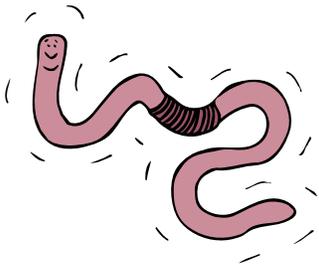
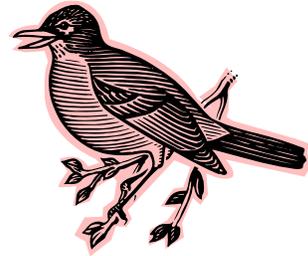
- Praise and reward your child when they do not use a pacifier or suck on their fingers or thumb. Star charts and daily rewards can be helpful.
- Keep bored hands busy and distract the child with other interesting activities.
- Ask your child's doctor or dentist to check the roof of your child's mouth and teeth for any changes.

(Growing Together, Dayton Children's Winter 2008)



## ACTIVITY PAGE

Draw a line from what the bird or plants need to help them grow!



Where is the:

**watering can**   **robin**   **sunshine**   **seedlings**   **worm**   **flowers**

What is your favorite part of spring? What do you like to do on sunny, spring days? What do you like to do on rainy, spring days?