

## Professionals in partnership Effective transition to school in the state of Victoria

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## Clarifying terminology

- Readiness
- Preparation
- Transition

## National Preschool Inquiry 2004

### *For all our children*

By Kathy Walker

[www.aeufederal.org.au](http://www.aeufederal.org.au)



## State context

- One of only two states that does not link curriculum between early childhood and primary
- Continues to have one of the youngest age entries to school of anywhere in the world
- One of only two states where preschool and primary education are not under the same government department

## Approaches to transition

### 1. Familiarisation process

1. Includes practical strategies/ preparation from family and center
2. Provides information
3. Organizational
4. May include specific transition program of visits

## Approaches to transition

### 2. Philosophical Commitment to links for families re curriculum and learning

- Involves professional links being established and maintained by professionals from each sector
- Involves families seeing a link in the learning process between early childhood and school
- Involves a community being involved in promoting a more seamless transition process across sectors and programs

## Effective Transition

- Effective transition between preschool and school is a lot more than familiarisation programs and orientation programs
- Effective transition for children and families is when the curriculum and pedagogy is similar, seamless and continuous.

## Effective transition

- The seamless curriculum simply continues a similar range of pedagogy for children in the early years, as they experienced in their preschool year.

## Practical strategies building partnerships

- Portfolio shared with parent, preschool and school
- Information sessions shared between schools and preschools
- Symposiums between preschool and school staff

## Challenges for professionals

- To ensure all professionals are up to date with recent research
- To ensure a consistent message is provided to all families within a community
- To minimise confusion or conflicting information
- To proactively provide information for parents with children in infancy and toddler hood

## Models currently in Victoria:

- Local government networks
- Local area groups/clusters
- Specific grants for preschool and prep teachers to work together
- Discussion groups between preschool and prep early years staff
- Shared Professional development programs
- Visits to each others programs and discussions
- Portfolios between preschool and school
- Early years classrooms using play based curriculum

## Further information

- Website: [www.kathywalkeredcon.com.au](http://www.kathywalkeredcon.com.au) Fact sheet on school readiness
- Book: What's the Hurry? By Kathy Walker
  - Chapters include topics of readiness, transition and choosing a school
- ERIC search on web has range of international journal articles on readiness
- Lady Gowrie 93476388 has range of handouts and texts on readiness
- Brochure in Bayside