

# FUN WITH TRANSITIONS

CLASSROOM TRANSITIONS ARE FULL OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.



Moving their bodies like airplanes helps toddlers develop balance and coordination

to the washroom for toddlers. While following it, they moved like imaginary airplanes and teachers sang songs, thus honing their balance and early literacy skills. A different pathway for K1 children was made up of dinosaur footprint stickers with even numbers in increasing order. They pretended to be dinosaurs stomping on the stickers whilst counting in twos.

## IDEAS FROM ALL SIDES

As the project progressed, teachers designed new transitional activities to keep children engaged. Some featured games like bowling and hopscotch, while others used props which required children to jump between objects. The centre also collaborated with ActiveSG's Nurture Kids programme, which provided an online resource kit with suggested further activities to develop fundamental movement skills such as throwing.

Even the children came up with their own ideas. For example, the older cohort made a 'Wheel of Movement' comprising different animals. Before starting the next classroom activity, they took turns spinning the wheel and each child performed the selected movement, be it hopping like a kangaroo or swinging like a monkey.

Such intentional planning has led to "smoother and meaningful transitions", says Ms Ong. "We have seen improvements in the children's gross motor skills. On the social-emotional side, there is less whining, fewer tantrums, and children look forward to coming to preschool." ●



Children practising their underarm throw before starting the next activity

**M**usic, songs and rhymes are typically used to facilitate seamless and pleasant transitions when children move from one activity or setting to another. NTUC First Campus' My First Skool at Blk 140 Serangoon North adopted a different approach by integrating gross motor activities and skills development into the transitions.

Six months on, the educators found that eight out of 10 children showed improvements in their motor coordination, balance, control and spatial awareness. This project helped the centre clinch an ECDA Early Childhood Innovation Award (Distinction) in 2021.

## LET'S GET PHYSICAL

"Transitions — from the classroom to the toilet, or between lunch and naptime, to name a few — take up to 15 per cent of the time in a childcare setting," notes Executive Principal Ms Wendy Ong. To use this time constructively, the teachers conducted classroom observations and parent surveys and identified gaps in children's locomotor skills,

“When I go from one place to another in preschool, I hop on one leg, roll a ball to knock down bowling pins, and read out the words on them. It makes me happy.”

TIFFANY KUM, K2

such as hopping and skipping. Teachers then planned fun transitional activities to address these gaps.

The transitional activities were progressively more challenging for each age group, based on their developmental stage. Ms Ong explains, "For four- to six-year-olds, we focused on developing language, literacy and numeracy skills, including musical elements such as rhythm and pitch; and social-emotional skills like turn-taking and patience. For playgroups and toddlers, we incorporated music and movement through songs, as well as letter and number recognition."

For instance, cloud stickers were placed on the floor to form a pathway from the reading corner

## SEND IN YOUR NOMINATION

From 2022, the ECDA Early Childhood Innovation Award is open to all preschools. Visit [go.gov.sg/ecda-awards](https://go.gov.sg/ecda-awards) for more information.

