

# Pre-K to 5th Grade

## Transition Activities for Students with Disabilities

Are you a preschool or elementary teacher eager to make a lasting impact on your students' futures? Start planning for their successful transition to life after high school today! Transition planning isn't just for high school students—it begins as early as preschool. Think ahead about your students' future possibilities, such as employment, college, and independent living. Use these tips to lay the foundation for students' post-school success.

### Start Early

Education is designed to prepare all students for college, careers, and life. For students with disabilities, planning early by embedding effective transition practices that will lead to successful post-school outcomes is essential.

### Understand Transition Planning

Transition planning is a coordinated process designed to support students with disabilities in achieving successful outcomes in employment, higher education, and community engagement after high school. In Virginia, this process is documented in the IEP by age 14. However, the planning process begins the day students enter school, laying the groundwork for future success.

### Help Students and Families Envision Future Possibilities

Share [success stories of individuals with disabilities](#) to show families the many possibilities for career, higher education, and community engagement. Encourage families to actively collect and share their child's strengths, preferences, and interests from both home and community settings.

### Build a Support Network for the Student

Work with families to identify community services that offer early support. These resources play a key role in students' long-term success, enhancing opportunities in higher education, career, and social inclusion.

## Empower Students

Encourage independence, self-advocacy, and life skills to build confidence. Help students explore strengths, career options, and interests. Start involving them in IEP meetings so they can share their strengths, interests, and goals.

## Recognize Strengths

Observe what your students do well, whether it's a skill, hobby, or way of thinking. Listen to their preferences and interests to build confidence and show them their potential.

### Learn More



To learn more about how to set your young students with disabilities on the path to success, enroll in our free, self-paced course [Early Transition Planning: Strategies for Pre-K-5](#). Earn 10 recertification points while gaining practical knowledge and resources by joining today.

## [CenterOnTransition.org](https://CenterOnTransition.org)

The contents were developed under contract #881-APE62524-H027A220107 from the Virginia Department of Education. VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action university.

