



Transition Songs and Chants

Transition songs will help children get from one activity or place to another in a playful, positive manner. Make the songs your own by revising the words to reflect your own children and classroom routines. Songs are traditional or of unknown origin unless otherwise specified.

“Brown Bear,” based on the book by Eric Carle; (BB CD#3 – Track #38)

Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see? *(everyone sings this to child holding the bear)*
I see _____ looking at me! *(child sings about an object or person he/she sees)*

“Acka Backa Soda Cracker” (Chant) (BB CD#1 – Track #63)

This rhythmic chant can be used to pass instruments or other objects at circle time. It can also be used with a beanbag to line up or choose a center at choice time. The teacher tosses the beanbag to a child on the last word “you,” and that child gets up. If not using instruments, children can try a pattern of clapping then patting (legs) while chanting.

Acka-backa soda cracker, acka-backa boo!
Acka-backa soda cracker, pass to you!

“(The) Clock on the Wall” (BB CD#3 – Track #39)

(The) clock on the wall says it’s time to stop,
Time to stop, time to stop!
The clock on the wall says it’s time to stop.
It’s time for circle. *(change “circle” to “lunch” or other activity)*

*“Color Chant” adapted from Science Co-Explorers Program, Mark and Liz Gowman
(BB CD#3, Track #72 – beat only)*

Red, red, is the color I see, if you’re wearing red then show it to me,
Stand up, turn around, show us your red, then walk on down!

“I am Ready” (Tune – “Frère Jacques”)

I am ready (children echo)
My eyes look front (children echo)
My hands are by my sides, (children echo)
My mouth is smiling! (children echo) *(or “my mouth says ‘shhh”)*

“Jump Up and Down” (BB CD#3 –Track #40 – example and #41 - accompaniment)

Mariah and Michael, jump up and down, turn all around, touch the ground!
Mariah and Michael, jump up and down, now walk to wash your hands.

(Use children's names and change "now walk to wash your hands" to other activity as needed, i.e. "now tell us your choice")

"Let's Sit Down" (BB CD#3 – Track #42) This helps children stay focused when transitioning from standing to sitting.

Let's sit down while we sing, down, down, down, down, down, down, down, down. (Sing down C major scale)

"Let's Stand Up" (BB CD#3 – Track #43)

Let's stand up while we sing to 8. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. (Sing up C major scale)

"A Line Needs a Leader" (BB CD#3 – Track # 44)

(by permission from Billy B Productions – check out his other CDs at billybproductions.com)

(A) line needs a leader, it needs a caboose.

It needs to be straight and it needs to be loose!

With our hands at our sides,

We're walking in line

We're gonna walk, walk, walk in a line.

We're gonna walk, walk, walk in a line. *(repeat and fade to internal (silent) rhythm)*

"Line Up Song" (Tune - "Frère Jacques")

I am ready, (I am ready)

My eyes look front, (eyes are front)

My hands are at my sides, (my hands are at my sides)

My mouth says "shhh," (my mouth says "shhh").

(or "my mouth is smiling, my mouth is smiling!")

"Please Stand Up" (BB CD#3 – Track #45)

If your name is Sara, please stand up,

If your name is Justin, please stand up,

If your name is Ryan, please stand up,

And walk to the sink.

children to go!

(Change "sink" to "line" or wherever you want the

"Rainbow Fish," Speranza/Wetzel (Tune – "This Old Man") (BB CD#3 – Track #46)

Child (or 2 – 3 children) sing(s) as he/she holds up his/her plain fish:

Rainbow fish, won't you please share a shiny scale with me.

(Teacher answers while handing them a piece of foil to put on their plain fish:)

Here's a shiny scale for you, now I'm feeling happy, too!

"Sleeves Up," M. Speranza - Sing before hand-washing – (Tune - "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Sleeves up, sleeves up, way up high,

First we'll wash and then we'll dry.

"Someone's in the Middle" (Tune: "Shortnin' Bread") (BB CD#3 – Track #47 and 48)

Someone's in the middle, middle, middle

Someone's in the middle dancing like that! *(Change "someone" to child's name)*

"Sticky Icky Bubblegum" (BB CD#3 – Track #49)

Sticky icky bubblegum,

Chewing's not the only fun!

Sticky mess, sticky mess, stuck like glue,

Sticky mess, sticky mess, stuck on you!

(Ooooooh, pop!)

(Pat/clap pattern throughout song, and children choose a place where the gum is stuck on their body; everyone "unsticks" the gum from that body part on "ooh, pop")

“Stop, Look and Listen” (Tune: “Tisket a Tasket”) “Hands Up” (Tune - “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”) (BB CD#3 – Track #50)

Stop, look and listen.
Hands up, hands up, way up high,
Listen and I’ll tell you why.

“Two Little Hands” (Chant) (BB CD#1 – Track #91)

Two little hands go clap, clap, clap,
Two little feet go tap, tap, tap,
One little body turns around and
Slowly, quietly sits right down.

*“We’re on our Way,” M. Speranza (Tune - “Oh, When The Saints Go Marching In”)
(BB CD#3 – Track #51)*

We’re on our way to wash our hands
We’re on our way to wash our hands.
We’re going to use some soap and water,
We’re on our way to wash our hands.

*“What Do You Say?” (Tune - “Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear”) (BB CD#3 – Track #52 and 53)
(Jaleil and Christopher) what do you say, what will you do for choice time today?*

*“When It’s Time to Line Up,” Speranza (Tune – “I’m a Little Teapot,” but without the swing feel)
(BB CD#3 – Track #54)*

When it’s time to line up, this is what you’ll see,
I’ll use walking feet and take care of only me.
I’ll move like a cloud that’s way up in the sky,
Floating very gently as I’m passing by.
(Words on lines 3 and/or 4 can be changed every so often!)

“Willoby Walloby Woo” (BB CD#3 – Track #55)

Willoughby, Walloughby Woo, an elephant sat on you,
Willoughby, walloughby we, An elephant sat on me!
(Repeat, using rhyming words of each child’s name, i.e.)
Willoughby, walloughby Wustin, An elephant sat on Justin,
Willoughby, walloughby Wyan,
An elephant sat on Ryan!