

Meet Me...

3+

Materials none

- What to do**
1. When transitioning, it is important that children know where they are supposed to be. Try to avoid putting very young children "in line" as it is not always developmentally appropriate.
 2. Instead, have a "meeting carpet" for children to go to during transitions.
 3. As you get ready for outside play, one of the children (possibly the helper for the day) chooses who should get ready to go.
 4. When you have three or four children at the door, begin slowly walking the children outside. This keeps children moving but allows others to catch up.
 5. The children may tiptoe, walk backwards, walk sideways, or "fly" out to the playground.
 6. When transitioning back inside, children know to meet at the picnic table. Other meeting areas for outside may be a circle painted on the playground or around a tree.

★ *Linda Ford, Sacramento, CA*

Outdoor Play

3+

Materials sand tools, such as shovels and buckets

What to do Transition to the outside by giving children sand tools to hold. When everyone has a sand tool, begin walking outside.

More to do **Sand Play:** Sand and children are a perfect combination. Every year, try to have sand delivered to the school so the children can dig tunnels, create rivers, ponds, castles, and more.

More Sand Play: Create a rain barrel out of a plastic barrel. Install a faucet 6" from the bottom, and put it under a rain gutter so it will collect water. While some children are digging, others can fill buckets with water and carry them to the building site.

Author's Note: I supply fewer shovels than there are children to encourage sharing, and it is safer, too.

★ Susan Rubinoff, Wakefield, RI

The Little Red Caboose

3+

Materials none

What to do Help the children transition to the playground by pretending to be a train and singing this traditional song.

Little red caboose, chug, chug, chug.

Little red caboose, chug, chug, chug.

Little red caboose behind the train, train, train, train.

Smoke stack on its back, back, back, back.

Hurrying down the track, track, track, track.

Little red caboose behind the train.

★ Cookie Zingarelli, Columbus, OH

Tunnel Ball

3+

Materials 8" to 10" playground ball

What to do

1. This is a great game to play as the children are waiting to go outside. Ask the children to spread their feet apart to form a "tunnel."
2. Give the ball to the first child in line to shoot through the tunnel behind her. She should bend over to roll the ball between the other players' feet, and then run to the end of the line to catch it.

(continued on the next page)