

Family Orientation (Parent and Child) Overview

WHO?

4 & 5 Star homes

- Four and Five Star homes (that are not accredited) conduct a formal intake process for new families. 4 Star homes implement either parent or child orientation; 5 Star homes implement both parent and child orientation.

WHY?

- To help the child feel safe and comfortable in a new situation
- To help parents and programs determine if the program is a good fit.
- For children, families, and program staff to start to establish strong, mutually beneficial relationships.

WHAT?

Parent orientation

- May include onsite tours, meeting personnel, receiving parent policies, and learning about program philosophies, curriculum, services, routines, processes, and expectations. Also may include parents sharing about their child and family needs and expectations.
- Take into consideration families' individual needs, concerns, and expectations.
- In addition to enrollment time, parent orientation can be held periodically throughout the year to share program updates.

Child orientation

- Always includes orientation to caregiver(s), home, and routines.
- Can be a one-time event or a series of events.
- Can include spending time in the areas used for childcare, meeting the other children with parents, and touring the building before starting attendance.

Resources:

Keilty, M., Sancho Paase, A., & Mayle, S.R. (2013). Transitions to kindergarten. *Teaching Young Children*. Vol.6, No. 4. Retrieved 4-27-22 from <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/feb2014/transitions-kindergarten>

Supporting positive transitions. Orientation: strategies for schools. Retrieved 4-27-22 from <efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/earlyYears/Documents/transitions-orientation.pdf>