

## Family Orientation (Parent and Child) Overview

### WHO?

#### 4 & 5 Star centers

- Four Star centers implement three program criteria and five Star centers implement five. Four Star out-of-school time programs implement two program criteria and five Star out-of-school time programs implement three.
- Four and Five Star centers that conduct a formal intake process for new families can count this toward one of their additional program criteria. When choosing this option, 4 Star centers implement either parent or child orientation; 5 Star centers implement both parent and child orientation.
- Orientation processes are addressed in parent policies.

### 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 teaching personnel, classroom, and routines.
- Can be a one-time event or a series of events.
- Can include visiting classroom, 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 <https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/earlyYears/Documents/transitions-orientation.pdf>

