

Transitions Happen  
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Change and transitions can be a very scary thing. Usually it's more difficult for the grown up than it is for the child. As parents it's always hard to accept that your child is growing up, not the tiny little bundle that you brought home from the hospital. Thru their lifetime your child will face many different challenges and experiences. Children tend to look at these obstacles and challenges as a game something to get past so that they can get to the next level. Somewhere along the line they grow up and start to protest change, it loses the fun and the challenge and becomes work. For Adults it means that our children are independent and growing up. Something that can be very hard for many of us to overcome, we all want to picture our children as our little baby that will need us forever. Truth be told, I still go to my mom for advice because she knows everything.

**One** Definition of change is 'to become different'. That's why it's so scary. We get comfortable and we master tasks, and then it becomes easy. Eventually it also becomes BORING! We need change in our life to keep us on our toes that's how we grow up to be adults that contribute to the society that we live in today. We are not robots; we get burnt out when we have to do the same thing over and over again. When change comes about we don't know what to expect. It's scary because what if you mess up or it's too hard. The thing we need to remember is what if it's fun, what if it's the challenge, you have been looking for, What ifs can be positive and negative but if you never change how will you grow as a person?

**Another** Definition of Transition is 'movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, etc., to another'. Again, for an adult this can be very scary but for a child this is their goal. Children want to do what their parents are doing. In Infancy a baby is watching what their parents do and mimicking their every move. They want to eat big people food, talk and get their point across, crawl or scoot to get the toy across the room, Walk and run to keep up. Then once they get to preschool age they are pretending to be moms, dads, teachers, going to kindergarten, the list goes on and on, the end result is they are planning their goals for growing up and transitioning to adult hood.

At Discovery Tree we wait for your child to tell us (well show us) that they are ready to transition to the next level. It **can be** a hard concept for parents to accept, however, it's a child's natural progression to be challenged to reach the next level. In the infant room we follow your child's cues to tell us what they need. When they cry or coo it is your child's way of talking and communicating with us to tell us what thing they want to do next. You may come to visit and see a child feed themselves their food. Trust me they get messy and it doesn't always make it to their mouth however, look at the accomplishment that will have mastered in the end. Discovery Tree truly believes in the toddler mentality of "I do it myself". It may take a little longer for them to complete the task, and that's ok they need the time to figure everything out. They are going to spend the rest of their lives rushing and going, Discovery Tree believes that we should all slow down and enjoy the process. If your child is being given the opportunity to work things out and try it on their own they are going to master tasks so much faster. They are also going to be independent

and have the confidence in themselves to try rather than give up and wait for someone to do everything for them.

Discovery Tree transitions children based on their [physical, social and emotional](#) development. We have assessments that we do every quarter to see where your child is developmentally. The tool that we use the most is observation of how your child participates in the program.

In the infant room we look for some of the following:

- One nap a day
- No bottles at school (drinking from a glass cup)
- Eating DT prepared solids
- Interest in what the children in the Toddler room are doing

Infants do not need to walk in order for them to transition into the toddler program. They will walk when they are ready. Some times we find that children are what we would call the “closet walker” they like to take steps when no one is watching. This way they can still have you working for them, you do all of the heavy lifting.

In the toddler room, [for children transitioning to the Young Pre-school program](#), we look for some of the following:

- They must be at least 24 months of age
- Ability to follow simple instructions
- Sit for longer periods of time for circle and small group
- Serve their food at meals with little to no help
- Ability to bus plate with little to no help
- Ability to communicate their needs
- [Interest in more advanced activities and learning projects](#)
- [Readiness and ability to participate successfully in the larger pre-school room/group](#)

Transitioning thru small groups

- Please look at small group goals as we really use these to determine if your child is ready for the next group
- Participation in activities
- Ability to sit for longer periods of time

Just remember we are always here to support you [and your child](#). We are your child's advocate, as your child's teacher we believe that they can do and be anything that they want to be. We are going to do our best to help them achieve the goals that they set for themselves and maybe teach them a few that they have not thought of. The more positive that we are to change the more that the next generation will be willing to accept that change always happens-[it is a part of life and is exciting!](#) Children will adapt to anything thrown their way, it's the adults that forget that we have already been there, and we survived and learned. We need to try and avoid being scared of change and embrace it. Lets be honest its eventually going to happen whether we like it or not!