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Transition to a New Environment

Dear Parents, We are so excited to have your child join our school.

Saying Goodbye

It is hard for a child to say Goodbye when leaving the parents to join the classroom. It is difficult for mommy to say goodbye as well. We all went through this as parents, when our children enrolled into school for the first time.

For a child as young as a toddler it is difficult to understand that you, the parent, will always come back for him/her. There is no way to explain to a small child that in 2 1/2 hours mommy will be back. Children ages 18-months to 5-years-old are not capable of understanding **the concept of TIME** as we do.

Only when your child reaches the Elementary class do they start realizing how short a minute is in comparison to an hour. There is a little switch in the brain that kicks in at the Elementary level. Prior to that age, children cannot tell what one minute is, or 7 minutes, or 2 hours. They can only sense it through the rhythms of the people and activities around them.

So what do we do? We **instill confidence**: children are happy to see their friends, meet their teacher and join the class. We think it's important to lower down the conversation about the new class. Treat it as the most natural thing. Try not to question, instead, make the statement:

- "Sam has a new class with Morah Jenn and Morah Hanna" ,
- "It's great to have new friends", "Julie loves to play with Sara",
- "Morah Jenn loves reading a story",
- "Morah Hanna speaks in Hebrew...." and so forth.

This way, you can reinforce the confidence you have in the class. Your child is smart to understand your cues.

What can we do to help our child? How do we transition?

There are no shortcuts, no free rides. Transition take their time. Talk to your child at home and say that you are going school and Mommy will always come back. Assure them that you are confident – as their little sensors can tell when you are lying about it. Believe in your heart that they are in a good place.

We are here at all times to give a hug, to support and to comfort you and your child. We are her as a family to your family.

Once in school, a child becomes accustomed to the activities in the class. This way, he/she learns a routine. The routine helps him and her to understand the Order of the Day following:

1. First, we sing
2. Then we read,
3. Then we play, then we eat,
4. then we go outside,
5. then we sign again
6. and then Mommy comes back.

Here is a sweet song that a mommy shared with me. The tune can be found at www.cdbaby.com. We will be singing it in the classroom

Mommy comes back

She always come back

She always come back to get me.

She never would forget me .

What Is Transition Period?

On the first week of school we expect new children to go through a Transition Period.

	Toddlers 18 months – 3 yrs	Primary 3.5 yrs to 6 yrs
1st Day	1 hour with the parent	Half Day
2nd Day	1 hour – no parent	Half Day
3rd Day	1 hour – no parent	Half Day
4th Day	1 hour	Half Day
5th Day	Staff will let you know when to pick up, as we extend the day	Half Day
6th day	Staff will let you know when to pick up, as we extend the day	Half Day

Toddlers (14 months to 3 years old): On the first day, please join your child and spend one hour in our outdoor class.

After the first day the Toddlers are expected to attend by themselves for **one hour** the next day. Again, one hour on the following day. We slowly extend that hour into 2 ½ hours, and only later start the child on a full day program.

Primary children (3.5 – 6 years old): On the first week of school your child will start with a half day.