

M A Y 2 0 1 3

Autism Services

Preparing Students and Staff for Transitions



Building Capacity

Transitions to new programs, new schools and new grades can be impactful on families, students and staff. Putting in supports around transitions can support students with anxiety, and with regression/recoupment concerns. We sincerely hope this newsletter is supportive for you and we welcome your feedback.

Save the Date!

Zones of Regulation. May 20th from 8:30 – 3:30. This training will cover information from Leah Kuypers, M.A.Ed., OTR/L on how to support students with self-regulation needs. The lessons and activities are designed to help students identify when they are in different zones (states of alertness/moods), as well as learn how to use strategies (including sensory supports, calming strategies and social thinking strategies to regulate the Zone they are in.

Sign up on the CRP website.

Contact your Autism Consultant

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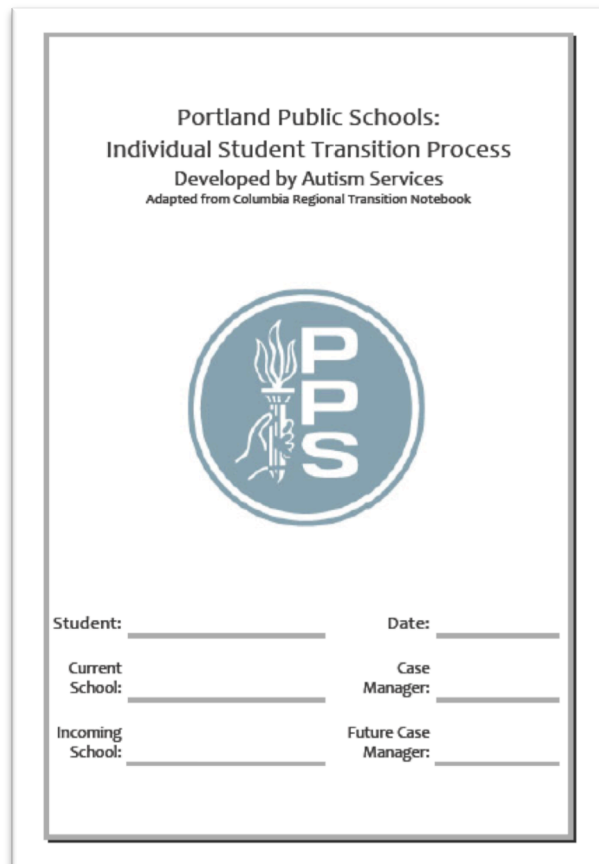
**Contact your ASD Consultant with any questions, concerns or requests for materials*

Supporting Transitions

As students are transitioning to new programs there are several ways that school teams can help the student and receiving teacher be prepared.

Transition Packet

The Autism Team has put together a transition packet that will help to ensure that all of the amazing information that teachers are holding in their heads about students should be shared and passed on. See following final page for instructions on using the attached transition packet.



School Visits

Some students have significant anxiety about changes in programs and schools. The switch from Elementary to Middle School, and Middle School to High School, or from general education to a focus classroom or vice versa, or to a transition program after high school can be intimidating and terrifying for students. Taking a student on a visit to their new site can significantly help reduce anxiety. You can contact your ASD consultant for help in facilitating this.

Additionally, many parents of incoming kindergarteners (and older students as well) have anxiety about their child’s next educational environment or are seeking more information about placements. If you are a teacher in a focus classroom, the autism team may contact you about setting up a time to bring the parents in for a visit. We acknowledge that you are busy teaching and managing your classrooms, and we try and do our best to limit our distractions.

Transition Meetings

While spring-time is a very busy time and full of paperwork, IEP meetings and those final three-year eligibilities, holding a transition meeting between the current teacher and the incoming teacher can be a powerful way for information to be shared between schools. This simple meeting can make the difference for the family in feeling supported and secure, as well as provide an opportunity to share pertinent information with all concerned parties.

Transition Support Stories

Your autism consultant has transition support stories for every school in the district. These stories have pictures of the school environment as well as some of the educators that students will be working with. They can be used as a strategy to help create an awareness of the new classrooms, schools and programs.



ASD Transition Packet



Take your time and think about the things that make this student tick.

Now that your student is approaching their transition to a new setting, whether it be a new school or a new classroom, this transition packet can have valuable information that can be shared with the new team.

There are two ways to complete this packet.

By Hand:

1. Click on the attached link
2. Print off the page and complete by hand
3. Pony completed packet to receiving case manager

By Computer

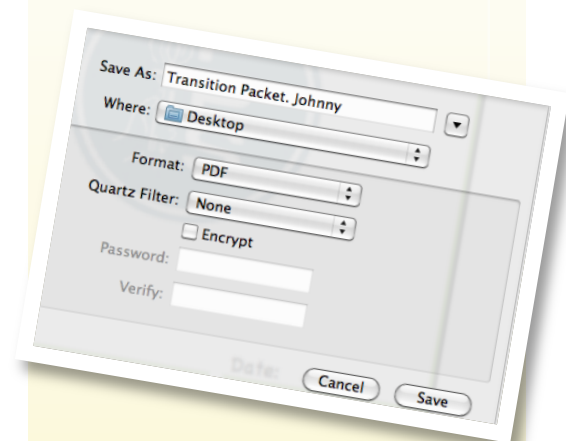
1. Click on the attached link
2. Type into the document
3. Save it by following the directions in the right column labeled "Save it"

Remember, students transitioning into kindergarten from ECSE will not have this transition packet. Refer to your teal folder for information about your incoming student.

*If you need support with this contact your ASD Consultant.

Save it!

After you have completed this transition packet, you can save the file. To do this open up the pdf. Fill it out and then go to "File" and then "Save as." Name the file something specific to the student.



Later you can go back to the file where you saved it, continue to edit it, and email it to the receiving case manager.

