Transitions between Activities

Changing between activities can be challenging for young children. It is important to give children time to understand that one activity is coming to an end and another activity will be starting. It is best to inform the children that the activity they are engaged in will be finished soon.

Simple effective ways to move from one activity to another is to use:

- A tidy up song
- A visual countdown timer eg a sand timer or a clock
- A visual countdown using numbers on lollipop sticks

Songs

(Sung to tune of Wheels on the Bus)

Let’s all go and tidy up our toys, tidy up our toys, tidy up our toys

Let’s all go and tidy up our toys

Let’s go and see what’s next?

(Sung to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle)

Let’s tidy up its time to end

Our lovely fun game with our friends

Let’s go see what’s coming next

It may be something we enjoy

Let’s tidy up its time to end

Our lovely fun game with our friends
Timers

A sand timer is a great resource to use to visually show children that an activity is drawing to a close, it is important to indicate to the child that you are using the sand timer so they are aware time is almost finished.

A clock can show a child how much time is left in an activity, it is great to use a clock with a visual shade to show and illustrate to the children how much time is left.
A visual countdown system

Count down the time remaining in an activity with your child using visuals on lollipop sticks