

Transitions from the Children's Perspective

[Music]

Girl 1: What's kindergarten going to be like?

Boy 1: It's going to be really fun when you move into kindergarten.

Girl 1: I just sing "ABCs." You have to be quiet when the bell rings at circle.

[Kids laughing and chattering]

Girl 2: When I see other kindergartners, I think about how I used to be in kindergarten. You had to line up from alphabetical order of your first or last name, and I lined up for, like, recess, and lunch, and going to the library, and PE, and music.

Interviewer: Why do you line up?

Girl 3: So you don't get in a glob.

Teacher: I'm waiting until everyone is in a nice straight line in the middle of the hallway!

Boy 2: Yeah. For leaving play court, or leaving school or arriving, you have to walk in a straight line.

Boy: Get on the school bus and just drive to school.

Boy 1: When I rode the bus for the first time, I felt nervous.

Bus Driver: Welcome to the bus, to my bus.

Girl 4: [In Spanish] Hola!

Boy 2: Actually, for three years of school, I rode with my dad because I forgot about the bus.

Girl 5: It has yellow everywhere, and it has black windows.

Boy 2: It gets from home to here, then from here to home.

Girl 6: This is my class. But this is the lights. If you have a big problem or a small problem, Kelso will help you.

Boy 2: You have to bring a backpack and a coat. If you get a sack, pack some of your things in it for Show and Share.

Boy 3: I was wearing first-day-of-school clothes.

Girl 2: On my first day, I thought, like, I wouldn't make any friends. And then I did.

Boy 3: I was nervous that the other kids would be mean to me.

Girl 7: I was scared to have a new teacher.

Girl 6: But I was, I was scared.

Girl 5: I didn't know where everything was and stuff.

Boy 3: My mom helped me find my seat.

Girl 6: And I was sad, too, because my mom was gonna leave, but until I saw my mom in the hallway. She gave me a hug

Boy 1: My teacher said, "All the parents have to leave." I, like, gave my mom a hug.

Girl 7: We sing our morning song. And then, we go to our journals, and then put them in our folders.

Girl 8: We listen to the teachers. We read with our friends. We learn math.

Girl: Sometimes we wrote stories together.

Girl 6: We learn the schedule.

Girl 5: And we go to gym.

Boy 2: And do music!

Girl 6: But you have to -- I don't know how to snap.

Girl 5: Shaking the maracas.

Boy 2: We do journal.

Girl 8: What did you write about in your journal today?

Girl 7: Ummmmm...

Boy 2: We write how we're feeling, like if we're scared, sad, mad, happy. And I forgot what we were talking about. No, when we're feeling safe.

Boy 1: You check out books on the day where you have library.

Girl 2: I learned how to do better at art. I learned how to draw regular people instead of stick people.

Girl 6: We draw pictures, and in, in the hallway we, we hang it up, and our parents come and look at them.

Girl 2: I learned how to, like, write my name and last name, how to, like, write "apple" and "flower."

Boy 1: The popcorn words are "the," "was," "he," and "they."

Girl 1: The popcorn was, "pop, pop, pop."

Boy 2: We go on field trips, but not today. See those pumpkins over there? That one with the pointy stem is mine. We went to the pumpkin patch, and we learned all about pumpkins. That's a picture of it.

Boy 1: My favorite thing in kindergarten is lunch.

Boy 4: Lunchroom.

Boy 5: You need to eat, and that's all.

Boy 4: I'm eating.

Girl 6: In preschool, you didn't get to pick where you got to sit. And, in regular school, I got to buy my lunch and pick where I sit. So it could be next to a friend.

Boy 1: What do you play with in school?

Girl 1: Um, I get to go outside. Out.

Boy 4: Free toys.

Girl 8: Mine is, too.

Girl 2: At preschool, like, you got to, like, really play and you didn't have, like, to do anything, and at kindergarten, you kind of have to, like, learn the alphabet and, like, learn how to write and stuff.

Girl 5: I like to play with my friends. I like to play inside of classroom.

Boy 1: I wish we could play more in kindergarten.

Boy 5: Kindergarten's fun!

Both Boys: Kindergarten rocks!

Girl 5: [Singing] Goodbye, goodbye! Whoa, we gotta go. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Goodbye, goodbye! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[Indistinct chatter]

Girl 9: Fishy!

[Laughing]

[Music]