Insisting that children “look ready” and “sit still” at the beginning of large-group time can create more disruption than readiness. So instead of saying “I’m waiting until you are ready”...

...consider beginning with an easy-to-join activity or song that will immediately attract and engage children as they arrive at the large-group space. Let children join in at their own pace.

I’m not going to start circle time until you sit quietly and show me that you are ready.

(singing to “Mulberry Bush”)
Everybody clap your hands, clap your hands, clap your hands,
Everybody clap your hands, just like me.

Now let’s move like Zoe.
Hug and twist!
(singing)
Everybody hug and twist,
hug and twist,
hug and twist.
Everybody hug and twist, just like Zoe.

Everybody hug and twist,
hug and twist,
hug and twist.
Everybody hug and twist,
just like Zoe.
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“I Know What’s Next!” Preschool Transitions Without Tears or Turmoil

Moving Through the Daily Routine