

Transition Activity Using Skype

Materials/Resources:

- *2 Computers or Laptops
- *2 Webcams
- *Projector Screen for optimum viewing
- *Skype program

This activity is designed for students who are either transitioning from elementary school to middle school or middle school to high school.

Skills Targeted:

- *Pragmatics
- *Generating appropriate questions and answers
- *Communication Skills
- *Writing Skills
- *Oral Reading

Instruction:

1. For students who are transitioning to middle school or high school, this activity helps to alleviate the apprehension that comes with that process.
2. Collaborate with a teacher or receiving therapist on the campus that students are transitioning to. This activity requires full cooperation and coordination between the two staff members in order to be successful.
3. For the students transitioning to the next grade, have them generate and write questions (adapt as needed), specific to the campus that they are moving up to. Typical questions that students tend to ask pertain to social functions, lunch with peers, and even fears of hazing or bullying. Although the questions should also be addressed by staff, student fears are often calmed by reassurances and reinforcement from older peers.
4. Once the questions are developed and reviewed by staff, questions are then given to the receiving staff member at the other campus. Students on that campus then review and generate answers prior to the Skype event. Encourage receiving students to be positive, supportive, and function as role models.
5. Schedule a "Skype date" between the two campuses. Have each group read questions and answers live via Skype.