

Supporting Effective Transitions for Children and Young People (CYP) Moving from EYFS to Primary School

Best Practice Strategies

Planning should start at the beginning of the child's last year in the early years setting. The more complex a child's additional support needs, the more time is required for planning and preparation.

- Share key information about the child:
 - Create a communication passport/pupil profile, including 'All About Me' information, with the child/family/key staff
 - provide opportunities for professional conversations, such as continuity of practice, assessment etc.
 - Hold regular meetings with the parents/carers of the child – invite professionals and key people from the receiving setting
- Establish receiving school's transition procedure & identify any training needs for staff in the new setting
- Identify a key person for the CYP as early as possible and begin relationship building to support the development of the secure attachment which is essential for a child's emotional well-being.
- Have a clear transition plan – include a timeline of the process 12 months preceding starting school (flexibility with this will be necessary to suit the needs of each individual child)
- Arrange visits for staff from receiving school to early years setting
- Take pictures or videos of key areas and staff at school, e.g. the dinner hall and classroom – display these in the early years setting and talk through them with the child
- Liaise with school staff to organise peg/draw etc. with labels or photographs of child
- Talk to the child about how they are feeling
- Make storybooks/social stories about going to school
- Develop 'going to school' role play materials for use during summer term, such as school uniform, lunch boxes, book bags, dinner trays to explore the idea of 'going to big school'

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Suggestions for Transition Opportunities

- Time spent using school playground equipment
- Going to school when quiet to familiarise with the physical environment before going to join in with play times / story time
- Having a lunch in school
- Taking part in a PE/games session in school
- Going into an assembly for special events
- older children from school showing early years children around the school or creating a video diary – ‘a day in reception class’
- Stay and play sessions with child and parent/carer
- Arrange home visits
- Provide activities that incorporate the child’s interests

Suggestions for moving on, saying goodbye & reducing anxiety

- Keep language positive
- Work on child’s independence skills to prepare for the next stage
- Discuss with the new setting an activity which will help the child to settle in
- Provide a transitional object/item to take to new setting
- Use a Talking Mat or similar visual approach to gain the child’s views on starting school and address any areas of concern
- Arrange a special party for the last day at the early years setting – saying goodbye is an important part of the process – create a memento book to look back on

Support for parents/carers

- PACEY school readiness resources – <https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/being-school-ready/>
- Early Years Alliance, Hello ‘big school’: Managing Transitions – <https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/hello-big-school-managing-transitions>
- BBC Bite Size: Starting Primary School – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>
- BBC Bite Size: Things to Consider on a School Visit for Your Child with SEND – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfpyy8>

Useful Links & Resources

- AET Tools for Teachers for early years transitions – <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-for-teachers2/>
- Twinkl EYFS Transition resources – <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/teacher-organisation-eyfs-early-years/early-years-class-management/early-years-transition>
- NYCC school readiness – <https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/school-readiness>
- I Can Changing places in the early years transition resource - [Transition resource.I CAN.](#)