

EYFS Practitioners Top Ten Transition Tips

Pre-School to Year R



Getting to know you

Where possible, offer regular stay and play sessions for the children and families to get to know the environment and each other. Many new friendships, both for parents and children are formed during these sessions.



In addition, consider offering smaller stories and rhymes sessions that involve singing, stories and craft.

A teddy bears picnic is an opportunity to draw transition to an end and look forward to starting school.



Where possible offer a home visit or if unable to, plan an opportunity to do this in school or virtually.

Create a virtual tour



Create a virtual tour of your indoor and outdoor environments to help children to become familiar with their new school or setting. This could be shared as a video or pictures printed out and made into a welcome booklet.



Gathering Information:

- From parents
- From previous setting either in person, during a pre-school visit or a telephone call, preferably with the child's key person
- Contact any other agencies that might be working with any of your new intake to give yourself time to make any necessary changes to your environment or to skill yourself up.



What makes the child unique? What are their characteristics of effective learning?



Keeping in Touch



Send a postcard to the child over the summer with a picture of your 'team' and tell them how much you are looking forward to welcoming them to your school or setting in September.

Supporting Parents through the Transition



Find out as much as you can about the child from home. Perhaps have an informal tea or coffee drop in. If parents are working, try and offer later phone calls.

Arrange opportunities for School Health, Hampshire Catering Services and even members of the school's PTA to attend informal coffee drop ins.

Family Photo's



Ask the child to bring in a family picture to display. This helps to give them a sense of belonging.

Perhaps they will need a transition object to help them to feel confident while settling in.

Family photos could also be taken during a home visit. These could be displayed in the classroom or even used as the child's peg label.

If your school can offer a home visit, perhaps also consider taking a photo of the outside of the home to include the front door. This could then be an addition to the construction or block area to enhance the child's play, especially if fixed to blocks.

Summer Family Activity Time to Talk



Invite families to create 'a treasure box or a treasure tube. This could be a collection of trinkets, some photos, or some drawings they would like to show their friends.

Alternatively, a scrap book could be given to each child. They may also like to add pictures or photos of places they may have visited.



They could also include leaflets, maybe even tickets of any places visited.

Connecting Parents



If your school uses an online learning journal help parents to set up whichever online platform you have chosen. This could be done as a large group or a supportive handout could be given.

This will help parents to feel more relaxed and at ease when their child starts in your class.

Route to School



Perhaps you could set up a 'teddy' walk on a walking route to school. You can ask children to practice their walk as part of their daily exercise.

The children can enjoy a teddy bear hunt whilst taking in the new walking route to school. You could even have a welcome message in the window of your school.

Story Session



If you are not able to offer stay and play sessions, maybe you could consider reading a story to your new cohort over an online learning platform.

