



Cymru
National Day Nurseries Association

Factsheet

A photograph showing a diverse group of young children sitting on the floor, looking attentively at an open book held by a teacher. The teacher is smiling and appears to be reading to the children. The background shows a bright, colorful classroom environment.

Transitioning to School - 10 Top Tips For Settings

Wales

Transition and Partnership Working Toolkit- Transitioning to School- 10 Top Tips For Settings

Preparing children for the transition to school is not a one-off task that happens in the last term before they leave your setting. Exemplary early years practice means you are constantly supporting children's development and their transition through the different stages of their lives during their time with you in the early years.

There are many crucial skills that support children's smooth transition into primary school and as a practitioner nurturing these foundational skills, it is important to identify the particular needs of the children in your setting as well as the key skill they will require. In doing this you can ensure that you support children's individual needs, enabling each unique child to have as successful a start to their school journey as possible.

These 'Top 10 Tips for Transition' will help to guide you whilst supporting early years children through this crucial milestone in their young lives.

1. **Be mindful of the language you use:** phrases such as 'big school', 'grown up' and 'big boys' and girls' carry with them an element of expectation and this can create anxiety in children. When children are unclear on what will be expected of them and the adults around them emphasise that the change to come will require them to be 'grown up', this can introduce a feeling of pressure and children will question whether they have the skills needed to be able to make this move. The responsibility to ensure children have the skills that they need lies solely with the adults around the child. Instead of these phrases, using terms such as 'new school' or the name of the setting will reduce the likelihood of performance anxiety.
2. **Provide children with the opportunities to practise during free play some of the key skills they will need:** For example, by putting PE kits and old school uniforms into the roleplay area, children will naturally practise putting on the t-shirts and shorts as part of their time in that area. Not only does this mean that children are more familiar with the act of getting changed in and out of uniform once they start school, but it also means that they are developing their fine motor skills and becoming more familiar with the clothes they will wear once they begin school.

- 3. Share stories and photos throughout the year:** the more familiar children are with the concept of school and school life, the more comfortable they will feel during conversations about starting school. Reading stories, both fictional and non-fictional will demystify what school is like for children and build excitement. Showing children photographs of their former peers, or school children engaging in the types of activities they will be doing, can help to prepare children for the change to come.
- 4. Encourage children to share and talk about how they feel about school:** some children will not want to talk about school and may appear to be disinterested. It is best to respect that and try to find other ways to talk about the transition to school. Similarly to providing stories, introducing a school discussion to your routine each week will help children to feel more comfortable talking about school and any concerns they may have.
- 5. Use visual cues and timetables (see example):** using visual cues and timetables supports children who may find it difficult to process verbal information, such as those with speech and language difficulties. Information that is presented in images and is accessible to children as and when they need it can help them to prepare for changes throughout the day, such as the move from outdoor play to snack time. When children are able to access and understand the timetable and routine, they grow in confidence and feel a greater sense of belonging. Speak with the individual schools children will be attending and ask them for a copy of the timetable so that you can use images to create a timetable for children in your setting.
- 6. Invite previous children into the setting to talk about their school experience:** part of the worry for young children about starting school is the fear of the unknown and unfamiliar. By inviting in children's older peers to talk about school and what it's like you can help to take away some of the mystery. It also helps to see other children who have walked the same path as them and to see that although they may be a little older and taller, they still like to play, have fun and have some of the same interests they had before they left your setting.
- 7. Don't downplay the move to school and how children feel about it:** sending positive messages about the transition to school is crucial. However, acknowledging and accepting children's worries shows them that they are valid and understandable feelings. For example, rather than telling children that they'll be fine and not to worry, consider using phrases such as, 'It is natural to feel worried about starting something new and we are all here to help you with it over the next few weeks.' This will also encourage open communication from children without them feeling embarrassed or silly about their fears.

- 8. Find out the facts to answer children's questions:** when children have questions about how things are done at their new school, gather these questions and contact the school for the exact answers. Every school has its own way of working and to answer children's questions accurately, it may be necessary to find out exactly how they do things. For example, during lunchtime, do all the children go to the dinner hall for lunch or do children with packed lunches stay in the classroom? Do they have hand-dryers or paper towels in the toilets? These details can put children's minds at ease and give them a good picture of how things will work at school.
- 9. Hold a parents' information evening:** for many parents, the thought of their child starting school fills them with a mixture of worry and excitement. You are their first contact when it comes to information on early education and school. Some parents may feel it is important that their child can write their name or know all of their phonic sounds before starting school. It can be reassuring for parents to hear the key skills that children will benefit from knowing, such as: zipping up their own coat, toileting self-care and asking adults for help. Information evenings are also a good opportunity to facilitate meetings between groups of parents whose children will be attending the same school and also between staff from the school and parents.
- 10. Scaffold and support children's organisation skills:** one of the challenging things for children when starting school is organising the equipment, books, letters and clothing that they need to have with them each day. Gradually work with children to give them the responsibility for emptying their drawers, ensuring they take all their belongings home at the end of the day. Give praise and recognition when children show organisation skills, however, remember that for some children their executive functioning skills that support them to organise themselves can develop less quickly. However, celebrate all successes, big and small, and provide the individual support children need to achieve their potential in this area.

These reminders of our ‘Top 10 Tips for Transition’ will help to guide you whilst supporting early years children through this crucial milestone in their young lives.

- 1. Be mindful of the language you use**
- 2. Provide children with the opportunities to practise during free play some of the key skills they will need**
- 3. Share stories and photos throughout the year**
- 4. Encourage children to share and talk about how they feel about school**
- 5. Use visual cues and timetables**
- 6. Invite previous children into the setting to talk about their school experience**
- 7. Don’t downplay the move to school and how children feel about it**
- 8. Find out the facts to answer children’s questions**
- 9. Hold a parents’ information evening**
- 10. Scaffold and support children’s organisation skills.**





National Day Nurseries Association

***Brighter thinking
for early years**

Factsheet

Our factsheets are written by early years experts for the early years workforce. Most NDNA factsheets are free to our members.

NDNA is the national charity and membership association representing children's nurseries across the UK. We are a charity that believes in quality and sustainability, so we put our members' businesses at the very heart of ours.

We are the voice of the 21,000-strong nursery sector, an integral part of the lives of more than a million young children and their families. We provide information, training and advice to support nurseries and the 250,000 people who work in them to deliver world-class early learning and childcare.

See the full range of NDNA factsheets at www.ndna.org.uk/factsheets

The information provided in this factsheet is for use by early years practitioners only. It has been written by early years experts but is not intended to be, and should not be relied upon, as a substitute for professional advice. NDNA has endeavoured to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this factsheet. NDNA assumes no legal liability or responsibility for your interpretation or use of the information contained within it.

National Day Nurseries Association

National Early Years Enterprise Centre, Longbow Close, Huddersfield HD2 1GQ
tel: 01484 407070 fax: 01484 407060 info@ndna.org.uk www.ndna.org.uk

Pecyn Cymorth Trosglwyddo A Gweithio Mewn Partneriaeth- Trosglwyddo/Pontio I Ysgol- 10 Awgrym Da

Nid un digwyddiad penodol yn ystod y tymor olaf cyn i yw paratoi plant ar gyfer trosglwyddo i ysgol yn ystod y tymor olaf cyn iddynt adael eich lleoliad. Mae arfer rhagorol yn y blynnyddoedd cynnar yn golygu eich bod yn cefnogi datblygiad plant yn gyson a'r pontio drwy wahanol gamau eu bywydau yn ystod eu hamser gyda chi yn y blynnyddoedd cynnar.

Mae llawer o sgiliau hanfodol sy'n cefnogi pontio llyfn plant i ysgol gynradd. Fel ymarferydd sy'n meithrin y sgiliau sylfaenol hyn, mae'n bwysig nodi anghenion penodol y plant yn eich lleoliad yn ogystal â'r sgil allweddol y bydd ei hangen arnynt. Wrth wneud hyn gallwch sicrhau eich bod yn cefnogi anghenion unigol plant, gan alluogi pob plentyn unigryw i gael dechrau mor llwyddiannus â phosibl ar eu taith drwy'r ysgol.

Bydd y 'Deg Awgrym Gorau ar gyfer Pontio' hyn yn helpu i'ch tywys tra'n cefnogi plant blynnyddoedd cynnar drwy'r garreg filltir hollbwysig hon yn eu bywydau ifanc.

- Byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r iaith rydych chi'n ei defnyddio:** mae ymadroddion fel 'ysgol fawr', 'tyfu i fyny' a 'bechgyn a merched mawr' yn cario elfen o ddisgwyliad gyda nhw a gall hyn greu pryder mewn plant. Pan fydd plant yn aneglur ynghylch yr hyn a ddisgwylir ganddynt a'r oedolion o'u cwmpas yn pwysleisio y bydd y newid sydd i ddod yn gofyn iddynt gael 'dyfu i fyny', gall hyn gyflwyno teimlad o bwysau a bydd plant yn cwestiynu a oes ganddynt y sgiliau sydd eu hangen i allu gwneud y cam hwn. Yr oedolion o amgylch y plentyn sy'n gyfrifol am sicrhau bod gan y plant y sgiliau sydd eu hangen arnynt. Yn hytrach na'r ymadroddion hyn, bydd defnyddio termau fel 'ysgol newydd' neu enw'r lleoliad, yn lleihau'r tebygorwydd o bryder ynghylch perfformiad.
- Rhoi cyfleoedd i blant ymarfer rhai o'r sgiliau allweddol y bydd eu hangen arnynt yn ystod amser chwarae rhydd:** Er enghraift, drwy roi pecynnau Addysg Gorfforol a hen wisgoedd ysgol yn yr ardal chwarae rôl, bydd plant yn naturiol yn ymarfer rhoi'r crysau-t a'r trowsus ymarfer corff ymlaen fel rhan o'u hamser yn yr ardal honno. Nid yn unig y mae hyn yn golygu bod plant yn fwy cyfarwydd â'r weithred o newid i mewn ac allan o wisg ysgol unwaith y byddant yn dechrau yn yr ysgol, mae hefyd yn golygu eu bod yn datblygu eu sgiliau echddygol manwl ac yn dod yn fwy cyfarwydd â'r dillad y byddant yn eu gwisgo unwaith y byddant yn dechrau yn yr ysgol.

- 3. Rhannu straeon a lluniau drwy gydol y flwyddyn:** po fwyaf cyfarwydd yw'r plant gyda'r cysyniad o ysgol ac o fywyd ysgol, y mwyaf cyfforddus y byddant yn ei deimlo yn ystod sgyrsiau am ddechrau'r ysgol. Bydd darllen straeon, ffuglen a ffeithiol yn egluro sut beth yw ysgol i blant ac yn arwain at gynyddu cyffro. Gall dangos ffotograffau i blant o'u cyn-gyfoedion, neu blant ysgol sy'n cymryd rhan yn y mathau o weithgareddau y byddant yn eu gwneud, helpu i baratoi plant ar gyfer y newid sydd i ddod.
- 4. Annog y plant i rannu a siarad am sut maen nhw'n teimlo am yr ysgol:** ni fydd rhai plant eisiau siarad am yr ysgol ac efallai yn dangos diffyg diddordeb. Mae'n well parchu hynny a cheisio dod o hyd i ffyrdd eraill o siarad am drosglwyddo i'r ysgol. Yn yr un modd ag adrodd straeon, bydd cyflwyno trafodaeth am yr ysgol i'ch amserlen wythnosol yn helpu plant i deimlo'n fwy cyfforddus yn siarad am yr ysgol ac unrhyw bryderon sydd ganddynt.
- 5. Defnyddiwch arwyddion ac amserlenni gweledol (gweler yr enghraifft):** mae defnyddio arwyddion ac amserlenni gweledol yn cefnogi plant a allai ei chael hi'n anodd prosesu gwybodaeth lafar, fel y rhai ag anawsterau lleferydd ac iaith. Gall gwybodaeth a gyflwynir mewn delweddau ac sy'n hygrych i blant yn ôl yr angen, eu helpu i baratoi ar gyfer newidiadau drwy gydol y dydd, megis symud o chwarae yn yr awyr agored i amser byrbryd. Pan fydd plant yn gallu cael mynediad at yr amserlen a'r drefn arferol a'u deall, maent yn magu hyder ac yn teimlo mwy o ymdeimlad o berthyn. Siaradwch â'r ysgolion unigol bydd y plant yn mynychu ac yn gofyn iddynt am gopi o'r amserlen fel y gallwch ddefnyddio delweddau i greu amserlen ar gyfer plant yn eich lleoliad.
- 6. Gwahodd plant blaenorol i'r lleoliad i sôn am eu profiad ysgol:** rhan o'r pryer i blant ifanc am ddechrau'r ysgol yw ofn yr anhysbys a'r anghyfarwydd. Drwy wahodd cyfoedion hŷn plant i siarad am yr ysgol a sut beth yw, gallwch chi helpu i leihau rhywfaint o'r dirgelwch. Mae hefyd yn helpu i weld plant eraill sydd wedi cerdded yr un llwybr â nhw ac i weld, er y gallent fod ychydig yn hŷn ac yn dalach, eu bod yn dal i hoffi chwarae, cael hwyl a pharhau gyda'r un diddordebau a oedd ganddynt cyn iddynt adael eich lleoliad.
- 7. Peidiwch â bychanu'r symudiad i ysgol a sut mae plant yn teimlo amdano:** mae anfon negeseuon cadarnhaol am drosglwyddo i ysgol yn hanfodol. Fodd bynnag, mae cydnabod a derbyn pryerion plant yn dangos iddynt fod eu teimladau yn ddilys a dealladwy. Er enghraifft, yn hytrach na dweud wrth blant y byddant yn iawn ac i beidio â phoeni, ystyriwch ddefnyddio ymadroddion megis, 'Mae'n naturiol teimlo'n bryderus am ddechrau rhywbeth newydd ac rydym i gyd yma i'ch helpu dros yr wythnosau nesaf.' Bydd hyn hefyd yn annog cyfathrebu agored gan blant heb iddynt deimlo'n chwirthig neu'n wirion am eu hofnau.

- 8. Gnewch yn siŵr eich bod yn gwybod y ffeithiau er mwyn gallu ateb cwestiynau'r plant:** Ile mae gan blant gwestiynau am sut mae pethau'n cael eu gwneud yn eu hysgol newydd, gnewch restr o'r cwestiynau hyn a chysylltwch â'r ysgol am yr union atebion. Mae gan bob ysgol ei ffordd ei hun o weithio ac i ateb cwestiynau plant yn gywir, efallai y bydd angen darganfod sut yn union y maent yn gwneud pethau. Er enghraift, yn ystod amser cinio, a yw'r plant i gyd yn mynd i'r neuadd ginio i gael cinio neu a yw plant sydd â phecynnau bwyd yn aros yn yr ystafell ddosbarth? A oes ganddynt sychwyr dwylo neu dywelion papur yn y toledau? Gall y manylion hyn dawelu meddyliau'r plant a rhoi darlun da iddynt o sut y bydd pethau'n gweithio yn yr ysgol.
- 9. Cynnal noson wybodaeth i rieni:** i lawer o rieni mae meddwl am eu plentyn yn dechrau yn yr ysgol yn eu llenwi â chymysgedd o bryder a chyffro. Chi yw eu cyswllt cyntaf o ran gwybodaeth am addysg gynnar a'r ysgol. Efallai y bydd rhai rhieni'n teimlo ei bod yn bwysig bod eu plentyn yn gallu ysgrifennu ei enw neu wybod ei holl synau ffonig cyn dechrau yn yr ysgol. Gall fod yn gysur i rieni glywed am y sgiliau allweddol y bydd plant yn elwa o'u gwybod, megis: cau zip côt eu hunain, mynd i'r toiled eu hunain a gallu gofyn i oedolion am help. Mae nosweithiau gwybodaeth i rieni hefyd yn gyfle da i hwyluso cyfarfodydd rhwng grwpiau o rieni y bydd eu plant yn mynychu'r un ysgol a hefyd rhwng staff o'r ysgol a'r rhieni.
- 10. Cefnogi sgiliau trefnu plant a sgaffaldio:** un o'r pethau heriol i blant wrth ddechrau yn yr ysgol yw trefnu'r offer, y llyfrau, y llythyrau a'r dillad y mae angen iddynt eu cael gyda nhw bob dydd. Gweithiwr yn raddol gyda phlant i roi'r cyfrifoldeb iddynt am wagio eu droriau, gan sicrhau eu bod yn mynd â'u holl eiddo adref ar ddiwedd y dydd. Rhowch ganmoliaeth a chydubyddiaeth pan fydd plant yn dangos bod ganddynt sgiliau trefnu, fod bynnag, cofiwch y gall sgiliau gweithredol sy'n eu cefnogi i drefnu eu hunain ddatblygu'n llai cyflym i rai plant. Fodd bynnag, dathlwch bob llwyddiant, mawr a bach, a darparu'r cymorth unigol sydd ei angen ar blant i gyflawni eu potensial yn y maes hwn.

Bydd y nodyn atgoffa yma o'n 'Deg Awgrym Gorau ar gyfer Pontio' yn helpu i'ch tywys wrth gefnogi plant y blynnyddoedd cynnar yn ystod y garreg filltir hollbwysig hon yn eu bywydau ifanc.

- 1. Byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r iaith chi'n ei defnyddio**
- 2. Rhowch gyfle i blant ymarfer sgiliau allweddol yn ystod amser chwarae rhydd**
- 3. Rhannu straeon a lluniau drwy gydol y flwyddyn**
- 4. Annog plant i rannu a siarad am sut maent yn teimlo am yr ysgol**
- 5. Defnyddio arwyddion ac amserlenni gweledol**
- 6. Gwahodd plant blaenorol i'r lleoliad i siarad am eu profiad ysgol**
- 7. Peidiwch â bychanu'r symudiad i'r ysgol a sut mae plant teimlo amdano**
- 8. Darganfyddwch y ffeithiau i ateb cwestiynau plant**
- 9. Cynnal noson wybodaeth i rieni**
- 10. Cefnogi sgiliau trefnu plant a sgaffaldio**





National Day Nurseries Association

Taflen ffeithiau

***Meddwl mwy disgrair
ar gyfer y blynnyddoedd cynnar**

Caiff ein tafleni ffeithiau eu hysgrifennu gan arbenigwyr blynnyddoedd cynnar ar gyfer y gweithlu blynnyddoedd cynnar. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'n tafleni ffeithiau am ddim ar gyfer ein haelodau.

NDNA yw'r elusen genedlaethol a'r gymdeithas aelodaeth sy'n cynrychioli meithrinfeydd plant ar draws y DU. Rydym yn elusen sy'n credu mewn safon a chynhaliadwyedd felly rydym yn gosod busnesau ein haelodau wrth galon ein un ni.

Ni yw llais y sector meithrinfeydd a'i 21,000 o aelodau, ac yn ran o fywydau dros filiwn o blant ifanc a'u teuluoedd. Rydym yn darparu gwybodaeth, hyfforddiant a chyngor i gefnogi meithrinfeydd a'r 250,000 o bobl sy'n gweithio yn dyddyt i ddarparu dysgu cynnar a gofal plant o safon rhwngwladol.

Gwelwch yr ystod lawn o daflen ffeithiau NDNA ar www.ndna.org.uk/factsheets

Mae'r wybodaeth ddarparwyd yn y daflen ffeithiau yma at ddefnydd ymarferwyr blynnyddoedd cynnar yn unig. Ysgrifenwyd y daflen gan arbenigwyr blynnyddoedd cynnar ond ni ddylai gael ei ddefnyddio fel allddodyn i gyngor proffesiynol. Mae NDNA wedi ymdrechu i sicrhau cywirdeb y wybodaeth gyflwynwyd yn y daflen ffeithiau. Nid yw NDNA yn atebol yn gyfreithiol nac yn gyfrifol am eich dehongliad nac eich defnydd o'r wybodaeth a ddarperir

NDNA Cymru

Swyddfa 3, Tŷ'r Goron, 11 Stryd Y Ffynnon, Rhuthun, Sir Ddinbych LL15 1AE
ffôn: 01824 70 78 23 e.bost: wales@ndna.org.uk