

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Moving on to school

The transition from nursery to school is an important milestone for young children. As each child is unique, the transition process will vary but by observing and responding to children about their feelings will acknowledge and validate their needs.

Providing personalised support will help to ensure a successful transition. Here are some tips to help with the process.

1. Find out feeder schools' website addresses and make them available to children, staff and parents during the period of transition to find out about and share information about the school, its routines and any specific requirements, such as uniform
2. Collaborate with feeder schools by creating strong links, sharing information about the children to ensure a coordinated approach to transition. To support continuity of care and a supportive environment include information about the child's interests, achievements and areas for development
3. Find out when the school's familiarisation visits will be and encourage parents to attend with their child. Practitioners may accompany children if there are particular issues or concerns, offering reassurance and continuity of care
4. Invite Reception teachers to visit the children in nursery to discuss individual children's needs, strategies for support and any concerns or questions. Other information such as family context and friendships are also valuable to share
5. Create an environment conducive to developing personal, social and emotional skills beneficial for school. Encourage independence skills such as dressing and eating, co-operative play, sharing and turn-taking, along with conflict resolution and self-regulation
6. Use pictures or a booklet to share the transition process with children. Knowing what to expect can help to alleviate anxieties or encourage children to feel excited about their new school



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7. Create a social story: Use simple language and images to make a 'story' of what to expect. This may be particularly valuable for children with additional needs or those who do not know other children already attending school. Introduce the concept of school, acknowledge emotions, letting the children know that it's okay to feel nervous, anxious or excited. Cover typical routines, daily activities, lunch time, going to the toilet, transitions and so on. Read the social story multiple times, encouraging questions and discussing any queries a child may have.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- Online course: [Supporting Children through Transition and Change](#)
- Factsheet: [Parents Getting Ready for School – Building Confidence](#)
- Factsheet: [Parents Getting Ready for School – Literacy](#)

Find more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna