

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.

Top tips: Home visits

Visiting children in their home, prior to starting at your setting, can really support a child's transition into your provision.

It enables you to demonstrate that you are a trusted adult allowed into their home by their parents.

Home visits are also a great way of getting to know a child and family and help to lay the foundations of a cooperative relationship.



1. Consider how you can enable key people to take time out of the setting to visit children in their home. Think about quieter times of the day when ratios may allow staff to be released or look at bank staff to support staff absences
2. Carry out a home visit risk assessment and share it with staff
3. Visit in pairs, so one member of staff can sit and play with the child, whilst the other talks to the parents
4. Think about what you want to achieve from the visits and any resources you may need, e.g. questions for parents and information you need about the child to help them settle into your setting. Think about the best way to record the information
5. Check with parents for days and times they can be at home to meet with visiting staff (this may mean evening visits for working parents)
6. Reassure parents about the nature of the visit - a relaxed opportunity to get to know your child and the family, to share information and discuss any confidential information or concerns they may have
7. Explain that the information you gather will help you to support their child's transition and settle them into your setting
8. Ensure any comments you make are centred around the child and not the home or the environment they live in

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9. Consider creating a photo story about the setting and the adults who will be caring for the child. Share it during the visit and then leave it with the family so they can revisit it with their child to help them familiarise themselves prior to their start date.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- Publication – [Supporting the home learning environment](#)
- Factsheet – [Parent's guide to home learning](#)
- DZ – [Home learning environment](#)

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