

Transitions: Ideas for Schools

Starting school



In addition to your usual transition visits, you may also wish to consider these suggestions:

- Record a practitioner reading 'starting school' books to share on your school website/ Facebook page.
 (Please check publishers copyright first)
- Gather a list of good starting school books to share with parents (website/ Facebook page/email)
- Make a virtual school or classroom tour which could be shared on the school website or use photos to
 make a PowerPoint to share via email or on the website.
- Make a 'New Starters' part of the school website to upload information such as PE kit requirements, drop off and pick up times, breakfast or after school clubs.
- Ask key members of staff to record introductions to themselves to post on the school website oremail to parents. This will help children to get to know them.
- Use photos to make a school transition book to publish on your website you could include cloakrooms, library, playground, lunch hall etc.
- School readiness is not just about a child being ready for school but for schools to be ready for their new children. Consider sending out a 'getting to know me' questionnaire for children to complete with their parents e.g. favourite toy/ story/ song/ food/ pets/ siblings etc.
- Ask children to draw a picture and display it in your classroom in September.
- Ask parents to send a photo of their child so coat pegs etc. can be labelled ready for the children starting.
- Include a photo of the school uniform on the website, indicate items that can be purchased from school such as ties when school returns (if applicable)
- Share a timetable of the school day, include PE days when kit will be needed.
- Share top tips for parents to get their child 'school ready' e.g. being able to put on their own coat, dressing skills, independent toileting skills etc.
- Share the Cumbria County Council 'Help your child get ready for school' leaflet with your parents

 Consider the flexibility of the first couple of weeks in Reception. Are there any children who may find starting school particularly challenging? Would a graduated start be appropriate for some children? This needs to be agreed with

parents.

