

Stepping Up

A transition project for children moving from Early Years settings to Primary School in North Inner City Dublin

Tip Sheet for Early Years Educators

The role of the early years service in supporting the child's transition

The transition from preschool to primary school is recognised as an important milestone for children. The successful transition from Preschool to Primary school will have a huge impact on a child's overall educational outcomes, their social and emotional development and their sense of security and wellbeing. One of the main indicators of a successful transition for a child is that planning and preparation is a collaborative process between families, preschool and primary schools. The goal of supporting the transition process is to provide continuity for a child in relation to their learning and development. Key to this is the sharing of information between all those involved.



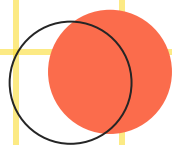
Who else is involved in the process

Supporting a child's transition from preschool to primary school is a shared responsibility between families, preschools and primary schools. But other professionals may also play a role in the process, including Special Educational Needs Organisers, Children's Disability Network Team, Primary Care, Visiting Teachers, Early Years Specialists. It is important that collaboration takes place between everyone that is actively involved in the child's care and education to ensure the child has a smooth transition experience.



Steps to consider when planning for the transition

Review your transition policy. The Aistear Siolta Practice Guide is a good place to start when reviewing and developing a transition policy [Self-evaluation-Tool-Supporting-Transitions-Birth-6-years-4.pdf](#)
Barnardos has also developed a sample transition policy for early years services [content](#)



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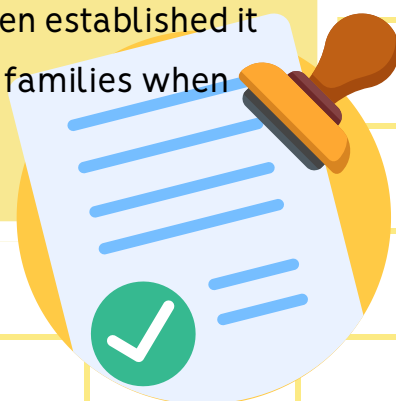
Tip Sheet for Early Years Educators

Steps to consider when planning for the transition



Communicate with families. Encourage parents to begin planning for their child's school place and choosing a school. Some parents may struggle to identify a suitable school place for their child if their child presents with additional needs and may need your support. The National Council for Special Education offers support for parents through its network of Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENO) within designated geographical areas. For Parents – National Council for Special Education – Working to deliver a better special education service

Complete the Information Sharing Document. In collaboration with the child, the child's key person and the family, complete the information sharing document. This document can be a work in progress over the course of the school year. When it is completed, it should be shared with the child's primary school. Parents can be encouraged to share the document themselves with school or if a relationship between the preschool and primary school has been established it can be shared directly. Consent should be obtained from the families when sharing the document with primary schools.



Communicate with primary schools. Establish relationships with local primary schools. It can be helpful to identify a key contact in each school, that person may vary depending on the school. Potential key contacts could include, the Principal, Home-School Liaison Officer, junior infants' teacher. Once a relationship has been established maintain the connection through regular communication. Consider inviting primary school contacts to any preschool events and/or graduations.

Throughout the school year, introduce activities into the routine/curriculum that will support children's transition. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment have developed a tip sheet with suggested activities to promote the development of particular dispositions and skills that have been identified to support children to transition with more ease suggested-transition-activities-for-preschools.pdf.



References:

Kane, M. (2016). Transition from Preschool to Primary School, The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

