

Stepping Up

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

Tip Sheet for Families

The role of a child's family in supporting a child's transition

The transition to primary school is a process rather than an event, as the child's primary care giver, you play a central role in that process. Supporting your child to have a positive experience during the transition process can have a long-term impact on their overall learning and development in primary school. One of the key ways you can support their transition is to work together with your child's preschool, primary school and any other individuals involved in your child's education to prepare your child and share information on your child's strengths interests and needs.



Tips for choosing a School

Choosing a primary school for your child is a big decision. The Citizens Information website lists the different types of primary schools in Ireland with a link to a handy search tool to find schools in your local area.

Choosing a primary school

Whole School Evaluation reports can help inform your decision. To search for a report for a specific school please see here [Search School Reports](#). The below is a list of questions you might ask yourself when considering a school:

- What schools are in your catchment area?
- What is the school's enrolment policy?
- Does this school best suit my child's needs?
- Is the school inclusive?
- Are there afterschool activities available?



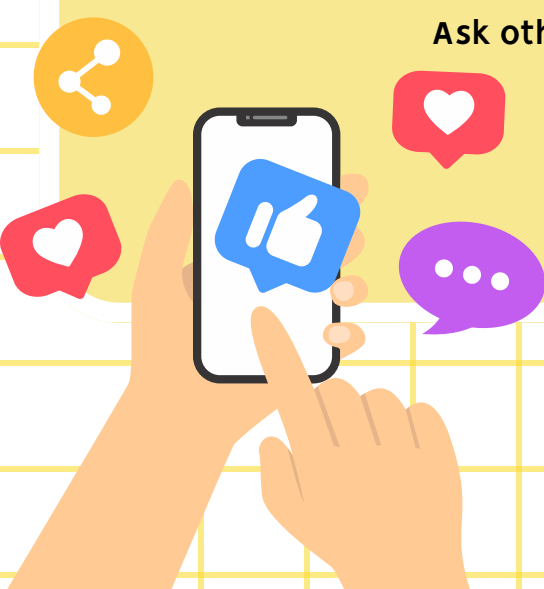
Other places to seek information about a school to help you decide the best fit

The School Website

The School social media page

Ask friends, family and neighbours

Ask other parents in your child's preschool



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Tip Sheet for Early Years Educators

Guidance for families of children with additional needs

Families of children with additional needs may have more concerns than others about their child's transition to primary school. The National Council for Special Education has developed guidelines for parents and guardians to help them feel more informed and prepared [Starting_Primary_School.pdf](#)

Families can also contact The National Council for Special Education through its network of Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENO) who operate within designated geographical areas. The role of the SENO is to ensure that a child with special educational needs receives the supports they are entitled to. To find your local SENO please see here [Regional Services Contact List – National Council for Special Education – Working to deliver a better special education service](#)

Your child may have been availing of AIM support in their preschool, if so, the Early Years Specialist working with your preschool is also available to provide advice and guidance in relation to the transition to primary school. Your Early Years Service will have the contact details for the Early Years Specialist and can reach out to them on your behalf.



Steps to consider when planning for the transition

Begin the process of identifying potential schools early, familiarise yourself with the enrolment policy and take note the application procedure and deadline. Primary schools will typically begin to accept applications between September and November, but each school will be different.

Communicate with your child's preschool about your plans for your child's primary school. Your child's preschool educator will be able to discuss with you your child's learning and development which can help inform your decision about a school place. Work together with the preschool to complete an information sharing document which can be given to the primary school that will highlight your child's strengths interests and needs.

At home practise self-care and independence skills to support your child's readiness. Have lots of conversations with your child at home about any hopes, concerns or ideas they have about school. Make sure to talk positively about school.

Once a primary school place for your child has been offered and secured you can then begin to familiarise your child with their new school e.g. walk or drive by, point out and name the school.

Keep update to date with any communication from the primary school and accept any invitations to attend an open day with your child.

See tip sheet on Home activities to support school readiness for ideas on more activities you can do at home.

References:

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

