

Contact us

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Is your child attending more than one early years provider?



Advice for parents/carers

Introduction

As a parent/carer you want your child to have the best start in life. Your child will experience many changes throughout their early years; this could be as simple as going from their own house to a grandparent's house or moving between early years and school provision. These are known as transitions.

Transitions occur on a daily basis between home, childminders, early years providers, schools and after school clubs. Others may include a change of keyperson or room within a setting or school. As a parent you can support your child through these transitions.

Transitions are good for your child when:

- They have had the opportunity to settle into all provisions, taking into account their individual needs
- They have an awareness of who their keyperson/s is within each provision
- The provision has prepared your child for any change and agreed how your child will be supported"

Can we add another bullet "You raise any questions about your child during this time with all involved to ensure everyone is working together to meet your child's needs

- They are well prepared for any transition throughout their day
- They are given the opportunity for a transition comforter e.g. a cuddly toy or object they can take between each provision
- Your child is greeted and waved off by a familiar member of staff at each provision and signed in/out when they arrive or leave



Transitions are good for you as a parent when:

- There is a clear procedure for sharing information about your child who attends more than one early years provider. You are given information about why this is important and a named person in the setting has responsibility of ensuring communication.
- You have had the opportunity to visit all provisions to settle your child in
- You are fully aware of your child's key person/s within provisions
- You are made aware of how you can support your child through transitions
- You have had the opportunity to share as much information as possible about your child
- Key person/s from each provision have the opportunity to meet up to share information in regard to your child's learning, development and welfare.
- Key person/s has been given the opportunity to visit the other provision your child will be attending to identify the differences your child may experience
- You have been informed of how information will be communicated between provisions
- You are given the opportunity to share any anxieties and the provision works with you to reduce these
- You have been informed of how information will be communicated with any other agencies involved with your child or family
- You are confident that information you give to one provision will be passed on to the next e.g. your child had a restless night
- You are invited to meetings by both providers in relation to your child
- You are fully aware of the procedure to be followed when transporting your child from one provision to another e.g. walking, bus, car



Questions you may want to ask your child's provider:

- How will you ensure information is shared?
- How will you ensure continuous communication between the other provision e.g. communication/ link book?
- What are your settling in procedures?
- How will I know that my child will be safe and happy?
- How will you ensure my child is transported between settings safely?
- Who will look after my child and help them learn?
- What will my child do during the session?
- What activities will my child be involved in?
- What will my child learn about?
- How will I know what my child has been learning?
- How will you ensure my child's learning is shared with the other provision?
- How will you ensure any information about my child is shared with the other provision?
- What do I need to bring for my child?
- Can I stay with my child to settle them in?
- In what ways can I be involved in the care of my child?

All provisions should have a transition policy, that parents can request.

How can you support your child?

Become familiar with the provisions 'Settling in policy'

All early years provisions will have a 'Settling In Policy' which will set out the procedures for supporting children through the settling in stage. Policies should be written with the child's emotional well-being at the centre. It is important that you obtain a copy of this policy and familiarise yourself with it, as it will help you prepare for your child's transition into an early years provision and make any necessary arrangements.

Read stories to your child about starting at an early year's provision

This again can help familiarise your child with what will happen at the early years provision before they start, during and after their time at a provision.

Know the routines and activities

Most early years provisions will give parents an Information Booklet which includes the types of activities provided for the children and the daily routines. It is good to familiarise yourself with this also as you can talk to the child positively about the sorts of activities they will be engaging in during their time in the provisions. Like adults, children need reassured and it is good to talk through the daily routines and let them know when they may move from one provision to another and when they will be picked up, for example, after story time.

Chat to your child about any concerns they may have

Your child may be anxious to know what it will be like at a different provision. Talk to your child in a positive way to reassure them

Staying confident, cheery and positive

Although you may be feeling as anxious and emotional as your child experiences transitions, try to stay calm and confident as your children may pick up on your feelings of apprehension. Offer reassurance and support

Helping your child to grow in confidence and independence

You are the safe base from which your child can branch out and explore the world, grow and learn and become socially and emotionally confident. Getting off to a good start will help you support your child through this very important period in their lives.

