Transitions

By the time our children have reached school age they will already have experienced many transitional periods in their short lives.

- Perhaps being cared for by Grandparents or Childminder
- Possibly attended a previous setting, or moved to a new house
- Then there is the transition from home into our preschool

Once your child is at our setting there may be a further transitional point, if your child changes Key workers (we try to avoid this, but sometimes it cannot be helped). Then there is the transition from our setting to possibly a different provider or to Primary school.
There is no doubt that transition periods are times which can be stressful for children, parents and practitioners alike. But if handled positively it should be possible to make the move from one situation to another a positive experience for all concerned, full of excitement and anticipation rather than uncertainty and anxiety.

How do we encourage smooth transitions into preschool?

- A preschool brochure is available, to give families a clearer understanding of the preschool roles and routines and working day.
- Information is sought from parents (through the brochure) about the child; to enable staff at the setting to have a clearer understanding of the child and their needs, before starting.
- Parents and children are invited and encouraged to come and visit and see us in action before the child starts at preschool.
- We run a stay and play sessions during the school holidays, which are particularly helpful for children preparing to start at the setting.
- Parents and children are advised before they start at the preschool who their key worker will be.
- Key workers make contact with their Key families, when they start at preschool to begin the process of developing strong links, thus enabling a positive working relationship, to establish between staff, parents and children.
- We aim to; within 1 month of a new child starting, for Key workers to consult with the parent/ carer.
    - To enable any issues/ concerns to be discussed & addressed.
    - A deeper understanding of the child and family's needs can be identified.
    - Feedback from parents can be sought about the effectiveness of this transitional period.

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Key Worker Transitions
On occasion, it may happen that a child's Key worker may change. In the event that this happens, the parents/carers and child will be informed. The new Key worker will make contact with the parents and child as soon as is possible, to reassure and begin the process of building good working relationships and embed good practice.

Transition into School
Much work is done at the preschool to prepare our children for their transition into school. We ensure that links with all the local schools in which we feed are established, and contact is maintained, when possible, to support our families.
Prior to your child starting in reception, or with another provider; your child's key worker will draw up a document that we call **'the learning story so far'** this document provides staff at their new educational setting, with an overview of your child and their needs. You will be asked to contribute to this document and add your views, we will send a copy of this document, which you have signed, to the reception class or new provider.

Throughout the school year we aim to use the facilities at the primary school, eg. The playground, field and woodland area and the school hall and gym equipment wherever possible. This enables all our children to become familiar with a school environment. They develop confidence as they move around a school space, using toilets etc.. and meeting new and unfamiliar but safe adults.

We join in with appropriate activities organised with the reception teacher, such as watching a short play, joining in story times or play sessions at the school; to enable our children to experience a new opportunity which supports their learning and development.

The reception teacher may come over to read a story to the children, and sometimes we go over to the reception class for the story.

Visits during the school holidays
We actively encourage parents and carers to bring their child into preschool holiday clubs, during the school holidays and prior to their child starting.
Visiting with your child and staying for an hour, whilst they play and familiarise themselves with the setting, preschool routines and staff members. Will help ease the transition into the setting for your child and it will also give you a chance to get to know the staff and the setting.
Which will enable you to feel more confident in your childcare choice, in readiness for when you will be leaving your child in our care.