

Transition to Reception Class by the Early Years Inclusion Service

Children due to start school in September 2018 will be receiving notification of their school placement, and you will be starting to think about your new cohort.

Early Years Settings and Reception classes in Cornwall already have excellent transition programmes with their feeder schools. Children with SEND may find starting school more challenging than their peers do and their families may need additional support during this important transition. Here are a few of the tips for transition between Early Years settings and Reception Classes receiving children with SEND.

- Discuss relevant information and documents as outlined in key principle section of the guidance with the EY setting and family. This might include the child's Early Years Developmental Journal and/or EYFS developmental levels and learning journal.

We would always suggest giving children with SEND additional opportunities to visit school with a familiar adult to:

- Spend time in key areas of the school when they are empty and before the universal transition sessions. This could include meeting their new teacher, teaching assistant and any other support staff without other children present.
- Provide carefully planned opportunities for them to join in at playtime and lunchtime as well as in the classroom during transition visits
- Have planned preferred activities and resources for this child to go to as they arrive, and return to if they are overwhelmed.
- Make a pictorial 'All about my new school' booklet and discuss with the child frequently before transition. Use photos of people key adults and places.
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The Early Years Inclusion Service will provide individualised support for those children with complex needs on their current caseload. This might include:

- A transition meeting or Team Around The Child meeting chaired or supported by a Senior SENCO or Early Years Educational Psychologist
- A time limited intervention from an Early Years Social Communication/Autism worker
- Targeted training and modelling of strategies with Reception Staff.
- Support with individualised resources such as visuals, social stories, transition books.

The Early Years Inclusion Service will also provide more general ideas and support for transition for children not on their caseload on a consultation basis if requested. Training is also available to support early years practice through the EY training directory.

Want to know more?

Visit the [Transition](#) webpage on Cornwall Council's SEN file and the [Early Years Inclusion Service](#) webpage (www.cornwall.gov.uk/EYIS) to find out more about the services and support we offer.