

Starting School



Transitions: Ideas for Early Years Settings

To support children with their transition into school in September, Early Years settings could consider the following ideas:

- Share 'starting school' books with your children, you may also wish to record different practitioners or members of your wider team reading a 'starting school' book on your facebook page, website or online journal (please check publisher copyright first).
- Gather a list of good 'starting school' books to share with parents.
- Once you know which schools your children will attend, visit the school websites to familiarise yourself with the school. Find out key staff names for example, and encourage parents to do the same.
- You may be able to add items of school uniform to your dressing up box or perhaps in the role play area. This not only familiarises children with the idea they will wear a uniform but also gives them the chance to practice their dressing skills. A general focus on independence and dressing skills will also benefit the children.
- Consider making up little books for the children to look through for each school. Include photos of key staff and areas of the school and provision. If you have these electronically you may be able to share these with parents to use at home too. You may be able to find the photos you need from the school website, or perhaps contact the school.
- Look back at your own (or your children's) first day at school. Do you have any photos you could share of you in school uniform? What are your memories/favourite bits? It's good for children to see people special to them have been through similar experiences.



- You are incredibly important people in your children's lives and know so much about them. Sharing this information with school will help school be ready for your children. Consider what they like or don't like. What are they good at and what do they need a bit of support with? Consider using the Cumberland 'Information to share' template on our website.
- Let your children know that you are talking to their new school and telling them lots of wonderful things about them and what they like and don't like. Perhaps ask the children what they would like school to know? It helps to link the familiar security of attending your setting to the new.
- Think about children who you feel may find the transition to school tricky. Talk to parents and school to offer advice - what worked when they started your setting or changed rooms?
- Continue to support home learning by sharing ideas and opportunities with parents.
- Share the Cumberland Council 'Help your child get ready for school' leaflet with your parents.