

## Transition from pre-school to school

The result of endless discussion and research has shown that transition is most effective when it is considered by all involved as a journey rather than a process. This journey should consider relationships, interactions and sharing of information as key to its success. The journey should involve equal opportunities for every child. The table shows some top tips for pre-schools and schools to consider throughout the term to aid a smooth journey for every child.

Both	Pre-School	School
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Consider key person involvement for first few weeks	Create a photo book about school to share with all settings
Review transition policy	Register to receive school newsletters	Create opportunities to build relationships with all settings
Evaluate last year and make changes	Invite schools to your events	Identify a transition co-ordinator
Meet together (October) to discuss this years intake	Arrange regular moderation meetings to include school	Add all early years providers to your school distribution list
	Photo books or talking photo albums in book corner	Set up a reception class blog.
	EYFS parent evenings	
	Opportunities to support children's independence	
	Staff swap opportunities	
<b>Spring Term</b>	Range of uniform in dressing up	Provide information to pre-schools about your school so that they can share with parents.
Continue to make links and build relationships	Provide information about all local schools for parents	Continue to build relationships
Organise/attend network meetings for all stakeholders to discuss the transition journey	Teach children strategies to manage change	
Introduce SENCOs from each setting and involve in any network meetings.	Find out about school routines and teach children the skills they will need to manage these.	
	Discuss transition with parents to discover their chosen schools.	
<b>Summer Term</b>	Inform yourself of how each child's classroom works so that you can have reassuring conversations with children	Analyse transition records to plan for new term
Arrange or attend network meetings	Inform school that children will be coming from your setting.	Plan orientation visits for all children.
Organise transition face to face meetings for all children.	Plan information sharing meetings for parents to relieve anxieties	Plan home visits – how will you get information from those who refuse
Plan together the expectation of visits to settings.	Plan opportunities for children to experiment with their thoughts and experiences of schools	Plan regular setting visits/staff swaps
Cameras are good tools for children to use to share their thoughts and feelings	Plan regular listening times for staff and children	Parents induction meeting following first orientation visits
Consider the transition of all children	Share learning journeys	Send Postcards to welcome new children from current cohort
	Have a clear policy for returning children during first weeks.	

Keep an eye on the early years team website for more information and ideas

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/early-years-team/>