



09 Early years practice procedures

09.14 Prime times – Transition to school

Moving on to school is a major transition in a child's life involving separation from familiar adults and children. Older children have a more secure understanding of 'people permanence' and can approach new experiences with confidence. However, they need preparation if they are to approach transition to school with confidence and an awareness of what to expect.

Partnership with schools

- Details of the school that a child will be attending are recorded in the child's file along with the name of the reception class teacher.
- Every effort is made to forge and maintain strong links with all schools that children may attend. The setting manager will approach schools to open lines of communication where these have not previously existed.
- Details of the school's transition or settling in procedures are kept by the setting and are referred to so that members of staff are familiar with them and can develop a consistent approach to transition with teachers, parents/carers and children.
- Teachers are welcomed into the setting and sufficient time is made for them to spend both with the child, their parents/carers and with the key person, to discuss and share information that will support the child's transition to school.
- A child's learning journey record is forwarded to the school along with other information that will aid transition and settling in. Parents/carers receive a copy of this.
- Any action plans relating to a child's additional needs are also shared, where this is in place.
- Other formal documentation such as safeguarding information is prepared in line with procedure 07.6 Transfer of records.

Partnership with parents/carers

- Key persons discuss transition to school with parents and set aside time to discuss learning and development summaries. Parents/carers are encouraged to contribute to summaries.

- Key persons will discuss with parents/carers how they are preparing their child for school and will share information about how the setting is working in partnership with the school to aid transition.
- Key persons will make clear to parents the information that will be shared with the school, for example, information regarding child protection and work that has taken place to ensure the child's welfare.

Increasing familiarity for children

- Where the setting is on, or adjacent to a school site, there will be opportunities for children to become familiar with staff and school premises, for example shared use of outdoor and indoor spaces, activities and resources.
- Where possible, the key person will take the child to visit the new school, if this is the school's transition policy.
- If there are several schools in a catchment area, or the setting is not within a reasonable distance of the school, other means of familiarisation will be explored. This could be through videos, photographs or other information about the school that can be shown within the setting. Staff may borrow resources from the schools and will use these with the children.

Preparing children for leaving

- Children and parents/carers form bonds with adults and children in the setting and will need preparation for separating from the relationships they have formed.
- The child's last day should be prepared for in advance and marked with a special celebration or party that acknowledges that the child is moving on.
- Parents/carers should not be discouraged from bringing the child for the occasional brief visit, as separations often take time to complete. Sometimes children need the reassurance that their nursery/pre-school is still there and that they are remembered.



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Deferring School Admission and Continued Attendance Policy

PURPOSE

Our preschool recognises that parents have the legal right to request deferred admission to school through their local authority. We understand that families make these decisions carefully and in the best interests of their children.

However, a parent's decision to defer school admission does not automatically guarantee that a preschool place can continue to be offered. It may be more appropriate to change to a setting that has the facilities to accommodate an older child.

In our case, as a small charity-run preschool operating from a single-room environment, the Committee has a legal responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare and quality of provision for all children attending the setting.

OUR PROVISION

Our preschool provides care and education for children aged 2 to 4 years in one shared learning environment.

The environment, resources, staffing and curriculum are designed primarily to meet the needs of children within this age range who are working towards starting school at the end of the academic year.

DECISIONS REGARDING DEFERRED SCHOOL STARTERS

Requests for children to remain at preschool following deferred school admission will be considered individually by the committee.

When making a decision, the Committee will consider:

- The safety and welfare of all children attending the setting.
- The age and development profile of the group.
- The suitability of the learning environment for an older child.
- Staffing levels, deployment and supervision requirements.

- Whether the preschool can continue to meet the child's developmental and educational needs.
- The impact on younger children, particularly two year-olds.
- Available places for future admissions.
- Any risk assessments completed by the Manager.

CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE A PLACE MAY NOT BE OFFERED

The preschool may be unable to continue to offer a place where:

- The mixed-age, single-room environment is no longer appropriate.
- The presence of an older, bigger child increases risks to younger children.
- The setting cannot provide an age-appropriate curriculum or experiences,
- Retaining the child would affect the quality provision for other children.
- Staffing or space limitations prevent safe and effective operation.

Such decisions are based on the operational capacity of the preschool and not on the individual child or family.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Any request for continued attendance will:

- Be discussed with the family
- Be supported by a written risk assessment where appropriate
- Be considered by the Committee
- Be confirmed in writing with clear reasons for the decision.

EQUALITY

The preschool is committed to treating all families fairly and consistently. Decisions will not discriminate against any child or family.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or statutory guidance changes.