

Supporting a Smooth Transition into Reception

Transition is a sequence, not a one-off event. It requires a "glide path" into school rather than a cliff edge on day one. Reception should be treated as a continuation of the EYFS, ensuring that familiar language, routines, and values travel with the child.

Core Principles of Effective Transition:



- **Early Collaboration:** Start the process early by building reciprocal, year-round relationships between nurseries and schools.
- **Relationship-Led:** Effective transitions rely on joint professional dialogue to ensure every child is understood as an individual.
- **Family Partnerships:** Involve families from the outset to align messages and share simple ideas for play and independence at home.

Practical Strategies for Success:



Reciprocal Visits

Teachers seeing children in their current context allows for confident planning.

Meaningful Data

Moving beyond checklists to share children's interests, communication styles, and strategies that soothe them.

Transition Booklets

Using photos of the new classroom, adults, and routines builds visual familiarity.

Sequenced Starts

Staggered sessions and small-group settling reduce overwhelm during the first weeks.

The First Six Weeks:

The first half-term is critical for preventing the "week three wobble".

Practitioners should maintain predictable routines and use **visual timetables** as "anchors" while checking with families to ensure children settle and attend class.

Redefining School Readiness:

Guidance moves away from rigid skills checklists. Instead focusing on practical, developmentally appropriate self-care and social skills:

- **Self-Care:** Toilet training, handwashing, dressing, and managing a bag.
- **Social Tools:** Listening to instructions, taking turns, and confidence talking about feelings.

Identifying schemas requires stepping back to observe patterns of repetition across activities. By recording these observations with neutral language, practitioners can help parents see that "throwing" or "dumping" are indicators of learning. This partnership values repeated actions, creating a flourish of natural curiosity.