



Chelmer Village Hall, Chelmer Village Square, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6RF  
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Registered Charity No. 1054083

## 9.12 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 are able to 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

- Every effort is made to forge and maintain strong links with all schools that children may attend. The setting manager will approach schools in order to open lines of communication where these have not previously existed.
- We take account of which school the child will attend so that we can share information.
- Senior staff and SENCo attend the Early Years Transitions event
- Teachers and SENCOs are welcomed into the setting and sufficient time is made for them to spend both with the child and their key person, to discuss and share information that will support the child's transition to school.
- A child's progress development sheet will be shared with the school if requested
- 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 **7.04 Transfer of records**.

### Partnership with parents

- We discuss transition to school with parents and set aside time to discuss learning and development summaries, if requested.
- We will discuss with parents 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.
- We 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 required, the key person/SENco 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 form bonds with adults and children in the setting and may need preparation for separating from the relationships they have formed.
- The child's last day will be prepared for in advance and marked with a special celebration or party that acknowledges that the child is moving on.
- Parents are encouraged to bring their 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.