

A young child with dark hair and eyes, wearing a colorful striped zip-up sweater, is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is blurred, showing other people in a bright, indoor setting.

Moving on from Home to an Early Years Setting

A Guide for Mums, Dads and Carers

Feeling Valued

As a parent*, you are the first and most important teacher for your child. Whether your child is moving from home to a pre-school, childminder or school setting you should feel involved in these next steps. All children's experiences will be different, but the important thing is to be able to help them to settle quickly and easily into their new situation. This is often called Transition.



When transitions are good...

- The new setting makes you and your child feel welcome
- You can ask lots of questions
- Staff tell you about the kind of things your child will be doing
- Your child has a key person who finds out about their interests, likes and dislikes. They will need to know about any health needs e.g. special diets or allergies

*By 'parent' we mean anyone legally responsible for the care of a child.

Forming Relationships and Building Trust

When transitions are good...

- The setting staff plan for your child. They know about their needs and interests
- You can visit with your child for settling in sessions
- Your child can bring a favourite toy or book from home to help them feel more secure
- The setting may visit you at home to get to know your child in a place where they feel safe
- Your child's key person will plan for your child and make time to talk to you regularly



The Key Person

Every child in an Early Years setting should have a named key person. You should be told who that person will be and what they will do for you and your child during their time in the setting.

When transitions are good...

- You have the chance to get to know your child's key person over time
- The key person is aware of all your child's on-going needs
- The key person plans for learning through play, based on your child's interests and needs





What if your child needs more support?

If your child needs more support you should be able to talk to staff about this. This might include any physical or emotional needs, cultural requirements, food intolerances, anxieties etc.

The setting should make sure that they are ready to meet **all** your child's physical, emotional, social and learning needs.

Top Tips for helping your child in times of transition

- Talk about going to the setting in a happy positive way
- Visits together are important. Your child needs to see that you trust and like the adults at the setting
- You can have a photo of the setting and key person to talk about at home
- Always say goodbye with a smile, and show your child how happy you are to see them when you come back
- At first your child may be unsettled. You might need to reassure your child with extra cuddles and talk about the changes positively

For further information you can visit:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families

For help with early education and childcare:

**you can contact Norfolk Family Information
on 0344 800 8020**

Email: fis@norfolk.gov.uk

facebook: www.facebook.com/NorfolkFIS

Twitter: www.twitter.com/@FISNorfolk