

EYFS — TRANSITIONS · EYFS

Starting School — EYFS Transition

Knowledge Organiser

Transition into EYFS

1

Why the start matters

The first weeks of school set the trajectory. A child who feels safe in September learns differently in February than a child who does not.

2

The key person approach

Every child has a named key person primarily responsible for their welfare and learning. The key person builds a one-to-one relationship — the child's secure base at school.

3

Phased induction

Children starting gradually — part days, then longer — settle better than all starting full days immediately. The pace should match the child's readiness.

4

Home visits

A brief visit by the key person before school starts bridges home and school. The child sees that the school person and home person are connected and trusting.

5

Parental anxiety

Parents' anxiety transmits directly to children. The most important thing for the child's transition is supporting the parent's confidence. Warm, specific communication helps.

6

Separation anxiety strategies

Predictable warm goodbye ritual. Short decisive separation. Known comforting adult ready. Photo of family in child's tray. A special first task.



7

Information gathering

The parent knows the child better than the school does at the start. A questionnaire or meeting before September is intelligence gathering: what matters to this child? What frightens them? What calms them?

