

Good Practice Example

Rufus remembers...The story of Billy, Rufus and Fatima's Special Summer.

(Written from a child's point of view)

Billy, Rufus and Fatima were all used to going to June's house, at various times in the week, when their parents were working and when they weren't at Pre-school. They had already visited their new school and June had stayed with them for a 'Stay and play' session. This had led to Noel, one of the teaching assistants coming to visit June's house.

Billy had been "upset" during the school visit and Noel wanted to visit him at June's to see how she understood what he needed to help him to join in and play. Noel was kind and funny. The children looked forward to seeing him again when they started big school. They knew they would be in his classroom because they had drawn pictures, and written the names of their friends, for their new class teacher, who had promised to make sure that they could all stay together.

Now it was the long summer holiday before big school. June organised lots of fun activities such as building a den in the woods and having a picnic in the park. It was a special summer. June had a book full of great ideas. It was called **"50 Things to do before you start school!"** She shared it with all the parents, and explained that she was going to see how many things they could all do. There was something to look forward to every day. Rufus said:-

"Some things were big and some were small. We helped to plan by choosing what we wanted to do. Sometimes we felt tired so we just chilled out".

Fatima's favourite memory was "when June made up a special action poem about their journey to school." On the way to the park, June and the children always walked passed the new school. They shouted out the poem together:-

"We're going on a journey; we're going to Big School. It's scary, but exciting, we're nearly there!" and they did all the actions. It felt like they were going on an adventure. Billy loved it!

Every time Billy saw the school gate, he would remember his new key person who had visited him at June's house and who had been there to welcome him when he visited school. Billy would say "Noel...big school...Noel's school" and June would say "Yes Billy. It is Noel's school and its Billy's school too".

June had a very special way of making things seem like they were going to be alright. It would be sad to say goodbye, but the children knew they could go back to visit. They would always remember their special summer, and now they were ready for something new!

Add links to the following documents here

50 Things to do before you start school”

“We’re going on a journey, we’re going to big school. It’s scary, but exciting, we’re nearly there!”